

The Last World War – Prologue

I do not know with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones. – Attributed to Albert Einstein in various forms... was his prediction correct?

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In my opinion the world in 2014 is on the cusp of World War Three and possibly World War Four. I believe another PAW writer hit the nail on the head when he suggested the basis for the latter will be religious ideology. WWIV started on December 18, 2010. They call it Arab Spring. Residual elements of another dispute come into play partially masking the seriousness of the opening stages of WWIV. We will only fight WWIV with sticks and stones if we run out of ammunition. – TOM

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Since I've alluded to WWIII and WWIV, this discusses both. I agree with GRAND58742 about the Islamic faith and the actions of the adherents to Islam, I'll go with that as the casus belli of WWIV, even if indirectly. But first we have to take care of the hanging chad, WWIII.

World War Three – Chapter 1

<http://coyoteprime-runningcauseicantfly.blogspot.com/2012/09/the-sunburn-missile-weapon-that-could.html>

Sunday, September 16, 2012

“The Sunburn Missile: The Weapon That Could Defeat The US In The Gulf”

“A word to the reader: The following paper is so shocking that, after preparing the initial draft, I didn’t want to believe it myself, and resolved to disprove it with more research. However, I only succeeded in turning up more evidence in support of my thesis. And I repeated this cycle of discovery and denial several more times before finally deciding to go with the article. I believe that a serious writer must follow the trail of evidence, no matter where it leads, and report back. So here is my story. Don’t be surprised if it causes you to squirm. Its purpose is not to make predictions history makes fools of those who claim to know the future but simply to describe the peril that awaits us in the Persian Gulf. By awakening to the extent of that danger, perhaps we can still find a way to save our nation and the world from disaster. If we are very lucky, we might even create an alternative future that holds some promise of resolving the monumental conflicts of our time. - MG

In July, 2004, they dubbed it operation Summer Pulse: a simultaneous mustering of US Naval forces, worldwide, that was unprecedented. According to the Navy, it was the first exercise of its new Fleet Response Plan (FRP), the purpose of which was to enable the Navy to respond quickly to an international crisis. The Navy wanted to show its increased force readiness, that is, its capacity to rapidly move combat power to any global hot spot. Never in the history of the US Navy had so many carrier battle groups been involved in a single operation. Even the US fleet massed in the Gulf and eastern Mediterranean during operation Desert Storm in 1991, and in the recent invasion of Iraq, never exceeded six battle groups. But last July and August there were seven of them on the move, each battle group consisting of a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier with its full complement of 7-8 supporting ships, and 70 or more assorted aircraft. Most of the activity, according to various reports, was in the Pacific, where the fleet participated in joint exercises with the Taiwanese navy.

But why so much naval power underway at the same time? What potential world crisis could possibly require more battle groups than were deployed during the recent invasion of Iraq? In past years, when the US has seen fit to “show the flag” or flex its naval muscle, one or two carrier groups have sufficed. Why this global show of power? The news headlines about the joint-maneuvers in the South China Sea read: “Saber Rattling Unnerves China”, and: “Huge Show of Force Worries Chinese.” But the reality was quite different, and, as we shall see, has grave ramifications for the continuing US military presence in the Persian Gulf; because operation Summer Pulse reflected a high-level Pentagon decision that an unprecedented show of strength was needed to counter what

is viewed as a growing threat in the particular case of China, because of Peking's newest Sovremenny-class destroyers recently acquired from Russia.

"Nonsense!" you are probably thinking. That's impossible. How could a few picayune destroyers threaten the US Pacific fleet?" Here is where the story thickens: Summer Pulse amounted to a tacit acknowledgement, obvious to anyone paying attention, that the United States has been eclipsed in an important area of military technology, and that this qualitative edge is now being wielded by others, including the Chinese; because those otherwise very ordinary destroyers were, in fact, launching platforms for Russian-made 3M-82 Moskit anti-ship cruise missiles (NATO designation: SS-N-22 Sunburn), a weapon for which the US Navy currently has no defense. Here I am not suggesting that the US status of lone world Superpower has been surpassed. I am simply saying that a new global balance of power is emerging, in which other individual states may, on occasion, achieve "an asymmetric advantage" over the US.

The Sunburn Missile: I was shocked when I learned the facts about these Russian-made cruise missiles. The problem is that so many of us suffer from two common misperceptions. The first follows from our assumption that Russia is militarily weak, as a result of the breakup of the old Soviet system. Actually, this is accurate, but it does not reflect the complexities. Although the Russian navy continues to rust in port, and the Russian army is in disarray, in certain key areas Russian technology is actually superior to our own. And nowhere is this truer than in the vital area of anti-ship cruise missile technology, where the Russians hold at least a ten-year lead over the US. The second misperception has to do with our complacency in general about missiles-as-weapons probably attributable to the pathetic performance of Saddam Hussein's Scuds during the first Gulf war: a dangerous illusion that I will now attempt to rectify.

Many years ago, Soviet planners gave up trying to match the US Navy ship for ship, gun for gun, and dollar for dollar. The Soviets simply could not compete with the high levels of US spending required to build up and maintain a huge naval armada. They shrewdly adopted an alternative approach based on strategic defense. They searched for weaknesses, and sought relatively inexpensive ways to exploit those weaknesses. The Soviets succeeded: by developing several supersonic anti-ship missiles, one of which, the SS-N-22 Sunburn, has been called "the most lethal missile in the world today."

After the collapse of the Soviet Union the old military establishment fell upon hard times. But in the late 1990s Moscow awakened to the under-utilized potential of its missile technology to generate desperately needed foreign exchange. A decision was made to resuscitate selected programs, and, very soon, Russian missile technology became a hot export commodity. Today, Russian missiles are a growth industry generating much-needed cash for Russia, with many billions in combined sales to India, China, Viet Nam, Cuba, and also Iran. In the near future this dissemination of advanced technology is likely to present serious challenges to the US. Some have even warned that the US Navy's largest ships, the massive carriers, have now become floating death traps, and should for this reason be mothballed.

The Sunburn missile has never been seen in use in combat, to my knowledge, which probably explains why its fearsome capabilities are not more widely recognized. Other cruise missiles have been used, of course, on several occasions, and with devastating results. During the Falklands War, French-made Exocet missiles, fired from Argentine fighters, sank the *HMS Sheffield* and another ship. And, in 1987, during the Iran-Iraq war, the *USS Stark* was nearly cut in half by a pair of Exocets while on patrol in the Persian Gulf. On that occasion US Aegis radar picked up the incoming Iraqi fighter (a French-made Mirage), and tracked its approach to within 50 miles. The radar also “saw” the Iraqi plane turnabout and return to its base. But radar never detected the pilot launch his weapons. The sea-skimming Exocets came smoking in under radar and were only sighted by human eyes moments before they ripped into the *Stark*, crippling the ship and killing 37 US sailors.

The 1987 surprise attack on the *Stark* exemplifies the dangers posed by anti-ship cruise missiles. And the dangers are much more serious in the case of the Sunburn, whose specs leave the sub-sonic Exocet in the dust. Not only is the Sunburn much larger and faster, it has far greater range and a superior guidance system. Those who have witnessed its performance trials invariably come away stunned. According to one report, when the Iranian Defense Minister Ali Shamkhani visited Moscow in October 2001 he requested a test firing of the Sunburn, which the Russians were only too happy to arrange. So impressed was Ali Shamkhani that he placed an order for an undisclosed number of the missiles.

The Sunburn can deliver a 200-kiloton nuclear payload or a 750-pound conventional warhead, within a range of 100 miles, more than twice the range of the Exocet. The Sunburn combines a Mach 2.1 speed (two times the speed of sound) with a flight pattern that hugs the deck and includes “violent end maneuvers” to elude enemy defenses. The missile was specifically designed to defeat the US Aegis radar defense system. Should a US Navy Phalanx point defense somehow manage to detect an incoming Sunburn missile, the system has only seconds to calculate a fire solution not enough time to take out the intruding missile. The US Phalanx defense employs a six-barreled gun that fires 3,000 depleted-uranium rounds a minute, but the gun must have precise coordinates to destroy an intruder “just in time.”

The Sunburn’s combined supersonic speed and payload size produce tremendous kinetic energy on impact, with devastating consequences for ship and crew. A single one of these missiles can sink a large warship, yet costs considerably less than a fighter jet. Although the Navy has been phasing out the older Phalanx defense system, its replacement, known as the Rolling Action Missile (RAM) has never been tested against the weapon it seems destined to one day face in combat. Implications For US Forces in the Gulf.

The US Navy’s only plausible defense against a robust weapon like the Sunburn missile is to detect the enemy’s approach well ahead of time, whether destroyers, subs, or fighter-bombers, and defeat them before they can get in range and launch their deadly

cargo. For this purpose US AWACs radar planes assigned to each naval battle group are kept aloft on a rotating schedule. The planes “see” everything within two hundred miles of the fleet, and are complemented with intelligence from orbiting satellites.

But US naval commanders operating in the Persian Gulf face serious challenges that are unique to the littoral, i.e., coastal, environment. A glance at a map shows why: The Gulf is nothing but a large lake, with one narrow outlet, and most of its northern shore, i.e., Iran, consists of mountainous terrain that affords a commanding tactical advantage over ships operating in Gulf waters. The rugged northern shore makes for easy concealment of coastal defenses, such as mobile missile launchers, and also makes their detection problematic. Although it was not widely reported, the US actually lost the battle of the Scuds in the first Gulf War termed “the great Scud hunt” and for similar reasons.

Saddam Hussein’s mobile Scud launchers proved so difficult to detect and destroy over and over again the Iraqis fooled allied reconnaissance with decoys that during the course of Desert Storm the US was unable to confirm even a single kill. This proved such an embarrassment to the Pentagon, afterwards, that the unpleasant stats were buried in official reports. But the blunt fact is that the US failed to stop the Scud attacks. The launches continued until the last few days of the conflict. Luckily, the Scud’s inaccuracy made it an almost useless weapon. At one point General Norman Schwarzkopf quipped dismissively to the press that his soldiers had a greater chance of being struck by lightning in Georgia than by a Scud in Kuwait.

But that was then, and it would be a grave error to allow the Scud’s ineffectiveness to blur the facts concerning this other missile. The Sunburn’s amazing accuracy was demonstrated not long ago in a live test staged at sea by the Chinese and observed by US spy planes. Not only did the Sunburn missile destroy the dummy target ship, it scored a perfect bull’s eye, hitting the crosshairs of a large “X” mounted on the ship’s bridge. The only word that does it justice, awesome, has become a cliché, hackneyed from hyperbolic excess.

The US Navy has never faced anything in combat as formidable as the Sunburn missile. But this will surely change if the US and Israel decide to wage a so-called preventive war against Iran to destroy its nuclear infrastructure. Storm clouds have been darkening over the Gulf for many months. In recent years Israel upgraded its air force with a new fleet of long-range F-15 fighter-bombers, and even more recently took delivery of 5,000 bunker-buster bombs from the US weapons that many observers think are intended for use against Iran.

The arming for war has been matched by threats. Israeli officials have declared repeatedly that they will not allow the Mullahs to develop nuclear power, not even reactors to generate electricity for peaceful use. Their threats are particularly worrisome, because Israel has a long history of pre-emptive war. Never mind that such a determination is not Israel’s to make, and belongs instead to the international community, as codified in the Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). With regard to Iran, the International Atomic Energy

Agency's (IAEA's) recent report (September 2004) is well worth a look, as it repudiates facile claims by the US and Israel that Iran is building bombs. While the report is highly critical of Tehran for its ambiguities and its grudging release of documents, it affirms that IAEA inspectors have been admitted to every nuclear site in the country to which they have sought access, without exception. Last year Iran signed the strengthened IAEA inspection protocol, which until then had been voluntary. And the IAEA has found no hard evidence, to date, either that bombs exist or that Iran has made a decision to build them.

In a talk on October 3, 2004, IAEA Director General Mohamed El Baradei made the clearest statement yet: "Iran has no nuclear weapons program", he said, and then repeated himself for emphasis: "Iran has no nuclear weapons program, but I personally don't rush to conclusions before all the realities are clarified. So far I see nothing that could be called an imminent danger. I have seen no nuclear weapons program in Iran. What I have seen is that Iran is trying to gain access to nuclear enrichment technology, and so far there is no danger from Iran. Therefore, we should make use of political and diplomatic means before thinking of resorting to other alternatives." No one disputes that Tehran is pursuing a dangerous path, but with 200 or more Israeli nukes targeted upon them the Iranians' insistence on keeping their options open is understandable. Clearly, the nuclear nonproliferation regime today hangs by the slenderest of threads. The world has arrived at a fateful crossroads.

A Fearful Symmetry? If a showdown over Iran develops in the coming months, the man who could hold the outcome in his hands will be thrust upon the world stage. That man, like him or hate him, is Russian President Vladimir Putin. He has been castigated severely in recent months for gathering too much political power to himself. But according to former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who was interviewed on US television recently by David Brokaw, Putin has not imposed a tyranny upon Russia yet. Gorbachev thinks the jury is still out on Putin.

Perhaps, with this in mind, we should be asking whether Vladimir Putin is a serious student of history. If he is, then he surely recognizes that the deepening crisis in the Persian Gulf presents not only manifold dangers, but also opportunities. Be assured that the Russian leader has not forgotten the humiliating defeat Ronald Reagan (Charlie Wilson's War) inflicted upon the old Soviet state. (Have we Americans forgotten?) By the mid-1980s the Soviets were in Kabul, and had all but defeated the Mujahedeen. The Soviet Union appeared secure in its military occupation of Afghanistan. But then, in 1986, the first US Stinger missiles reached the hands of the Afghani resistance; and, quite suddenly, Soviet helicopter gunships and MiGs began dropping out of the skies like flaming stones. The tide swiftly turned, and by 1989 it was all over but the hand wringing and gnashing of teeth in the Kremlin. Defeated, the Soviets slunk back across the frontier. The whole world cheered the American Stingers, which had carried the day.

This very night, as he sips his cognac, what is Vladimir Putin thinking? Is he perhaps thinking about the perverse symmetries of history? If so, he may also be wondering (and discussing with his closest aides) how a truly great nation like the United States

could be so blind and so stupid as to allow another state, i.e., Israel, to control its foreign policy, especially in a region as vital (and volatile) as the Mid-East. One can almost hear the Russians' animated conversation: "The Americans! What is the matter with them?" "They simply cannot help themselves." "What idiots!" "A nation as foolish as this deserves to be taught a lesson." "Yes! For their own good." "It must be a painful lesson, one they will never forget. "Are we agreed, then, comrades?" "Let us teach our American friends a lesson about the limits of military power..."

Does anyone really believe that Vladimir Putin will hesitate to seize a most rare opportunity to change the course of history and, in the bargain, take his sweet revenge? Surely Putin understands the terrible dimensions of the trap into which the US has blundered, thanks to the Israelis and their neo-con supporters in Washington who lobbied so vociferously for the 2003 invasion of Iraq, against all friendly and expert advice, and who even now beat the drums of war against Iran. Would Putin be wrong to conclude that the US will never leave the region unless it is first defeated militarily? Should we blame him for deciding that Iran is "one bridge too far"? If the US and Israel overreach, and the Iranians close the net with Russian anti-ship missiles, it will be a fearful symmetry, indeed.

Springing the Trap: At the battle of Cannae in 216 BC, the great Carthaginian general, Hannibal, tempted a much larger Roman army into a fateful advance, and then enveloped and annihilated it with a smaller force. Out of a Roman army of 70,000 men, no more than a few thousand escaped. It was said that after many hours of dispatching the Romans, Hannibal's soldiers grew so tired that the fight went out of them. In their weariness they granted the last broken and bedraggled Romans their lives.

Let us pray that the US sailors who are unlucky enough to be on duty in the Persian Gulf when the shooting starts can escape the fate of the Roman army at Cannae. The odds will be heavily against them, however, because they will face the same type of danger, tantamount to envelopment. The US ships in the Gulf will already have come within range of the Sunburn missiles and the even more-advanced SS-NX-26 Yakhonts missiles, also Russian-made (speed: Mach 2.9; range: 180 miles) deployed by the Iranians along the Gulf's northern shore. Every US ship will be exposed and vulnerable. When the Iranians spring the trap, the entire lake will become a killing field.

Anti-ship cruise missiles are not new, as I've mentioned. Nor have they yet determined the outcome in a conflict. But this is probably only because these horrible weapons have never been deployed in sufficient numbers. At the time of the Falklands war the Argentine air force possessed only five Exocets, yet managed to sink two ships. With enough of them, the Argentineans might have sunk the entire British fleet, and won the war. Although we've never seen a massed attack of cruise missiles, this is exactly what the US Navy could face in the next war in the Gulf.

Try and imagine it if you can: barrage after barrage of Exocet-class missiles, which the Iranians are known to possess in the hundreds, as well as the unstoppable Sunburn and Yakhonts missiles. The questions that our purblind government leaders should be

asking themselves, today, if they value what historians will one day write about them, are two: how many of the Russian anti-ship missiles has Putin already supplied to Iran? And: How many more are currently in the pipeline?

In 2001, Jane's Defense Weekly reported that Iran was attempting to acquire anti-ship missiles from Russia. Ominously, the same report also mentioned that the more advanced Yakhonts missile was "optimized for attacks against carrier task forces." Apparently its guidance system is "able to distinguish an aircraft carrier from its escorts." The numbers were not disclosed.

The US Navy will come under fire even if the US does not participate in the first so-called surgical raids on Iran's nuclear sites, that is, even if Israel goes it alone. Israel's brand-new fleet of 25 F-15s (paid for by American taxpayers) has sufficient range to target Iran, but the Israelis cannot mount an attack without crossing US-occupied Iraqi air space. It will hardly matter if Washington gives the green light, or is dragged into the conflict by a recalcitrant Israel. Either way, the result will be the same. The Iranians will interpret US acquiescence as complicity, and, in any event, they will understand that the real fight is with the Americans. The Iranians will be entirely within their rights to counter-attack in self-defense. Most of the world will see it this way, and will support them, not America. The US and Israel will be viewed as the aggressors, even as the unfortunate US sailors in harm's way become cannon fodder. In the Gulf's shallow and confined waters evasive maneuvers will be difficult, at best, and escape impossible. Even if US planes control of the skies over the battlefield, the sailors caught in the net below will be hard-pressed to survive. The Gulf will run red with American blood.

From here, it only gets worse. Armed with their Russian-supplied cruise missiles, the Iranians will close the lake's only outlet, the strategic Strait of Hormuz, cutting off the trapped and dying Americans from help and rescue. The US fleet massing in the Indian Ocean will stand by helplessly, unable to enter the Gulf to assist the survivors or bring logistical support to the other US forces on duty in Iraq. Couple this with a major new ground offensive by the Iraqi insurgents, and, quite suddenly, the tables could turn against the Americans in Baghdad. As supplies and ammunition begin to run out, the status of US forces in the region will become precarious. The occupiers will become the besieged.

With enough anti-ship missiles, the Iranians can halt tanker traffic through Hormuz for weeks, even months. With the flow of oil from the Gulf curtailed, the price of a barrel of crude will skyrocket on the world market. Within days the global economy will begin to grind to a halt. Tempers at an emergency round-the-clock session of the UN Security Council will flare and likely explode into shouting and recriminations as French, German, Chinese and even British ambassadors angrily accuse the US of allowing Israel to threaten world order. But, as always, because of the US veto the world body will be powerless to act... America will stand alone, completely isolated.

Yet, despite the increasingly hostile international mood, elements of the US media will spin the crisis very differently here at home, in a way that is sympathetic to Israel. Mem-

bers of Congress will rise to speak in the House and Senate, and rally to Israel's defense, while blaming the victim of the attack, Iran. Fundamentalist Christian talk show hosts will proclaim the historic fulfillment of biblical prophecy in our time, and will call upon the Jews of Israel to accept Jesus into their hearts; meanwhile, urging the president to nuke the evil empire of Islam. From across America will be heard histrionic cries for fresh reinforcements, even a military draft. Patriots will demand victory at any cost. Pundits will scream for an escalation of the conflict. A war that ostensibly began as an attempt to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons will teeter on the brink of their use.

Conclusion: Friends, we must work together to prevent such a catastrophe. We must stop the next Middle East war before it starts. The US government must turn over to the United Nations the primary responsibility for resolving the deepening crisis in Iraq, and, immediately thereafter, withdraw US forces from the country. We must also prevail upon the Israelis to sign the Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) and open all of their nuclear sites to IAEA inspectors. Only then can serious talks begin with Iran and other states to establish a nuclear weapon free zone (NWFZ) in the Mid-East so essential to the region's long-term peace and security."

- <http://www.rense.com/>

This was originally posted on 11-2-4, and due to ongoing improvements in the design capabilities of this missile system the threat is even more lethal today. And we'd get into this for what, exactly? "Democracy", "freedom", like we've given to Iraq? No, folks, it's about oil and natural gas, resources which we're competing for, and money, always money. Only a damned fool would be willing to die for Exxon/Mobil, BP and the rest of that lot...- CP

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"Iran's Arsenal Of Sunburn Missiles Is More Than Enough To Close The Strait Of Hormuz"

by Jim Campbell

"The Sunburn is perhaps the most lethal anti-ship missile in the world, designed to fly as low as 9 feet above ground/water at more than 1,500 miles per hour (Mach 2+). The missile uses a violent pop-up maneuver for its terminal approach to throw off Phalanx and other US anti-missile defense systems. Given their low cost, they're perfectly suited for close quarter naval conflict in the bathtub-like Persian Gulf.

The Sunburn is versatile, and can be fired from practically any platform, including just a flatbed truck. It has a 90-mile range, which is all that is necessary in the small Persian Gulf and 40-mile-wide Strait of Hormuz. Fired from shore a missile could hit a ship in the Strait in less than a minute. It presents a real threat to the US Navy. Tests using the Aegean and RAM ship defense technology stops the Sunburn 95% of the time, but such testing was done in open seas, not a bathtub. The payload hit with a 750-pound conventional warhead can be witnessed at 1:53-1:57 in this video. Not enough to sink a carrier, but it could take down smaller capital ships and crew.

You don't have to be Hannibal preparing for the Battle of Cannae to see that the Strait is a potential shooting gallery. Without a doubt, Iran has plotted and mapped every firing angle and location along the Gulf, their home-court coastline. This is going to put enormous interdiction pressure on US warplanes to spot and destroy platforms, which may be as simple as a flat-bed truck. In reality, Iran has dug in from Jask in the east to Bandar in the west and can easily cover any ship, commercial or military, traversing the narrow Strait.

Equally disturbing is Iran's missile range for the entire Persian Gulf. Bahrain itself could be hit by the longer-range version of the Sunburn, the Onyx. Is the US (which has three aircraft carrier groups in play currently) going to stick around or clear out to the Oman Sea, leaving control of the oil lanes to Iran? Or will they stay and slug it out with the Iranians? If so, at what cost?"

[-http://dancingczars.wordpress.com/2012/02/11/propaganda-alert-irans-arsenal-of-sunburn-missiles-is-more-than-enough-to-close-the-strait-of-hormuz/](http://dancingczars.wordpress.com/2012/02/11/propaganda-alert-irans-arsenal-of-sunburn-missiles-is-more-than-enough-to-close-the-strait-of-hormuz/)

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That was posted in 2012. The US eliminated Carrier *Battle* Groups in favor of Carrier *Strike* Groups on 1 October 2004.

World War Three – Chapter 2

Looking back...

I'd read that back on September 3, 2012. It looked like it had possibilities as the lead into a story line. I never wrote the story because the world in 2012 wasn't what it was now. Someone had conducted a nuclear test last week and nobody claimed credit. A few days before on Memorial Day, we heard from Iran.

Jihad will only end when society can get rid of America Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei in chilling threat towards US

Ali Khamenei says Iran must arm to defend itself in 'world full of thieves'
Comments come as talks over Iran's nuclear program run into stalemate

Published: 13:37 EST, 26 May 2014 | Updated: 16:23 EST, 26 May 2014

Iran's supreme leader has said that his country's struggle will only end when it defeats US-led oppression.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei told members of parliament in Tehran that Iran must be armed and 'have the capability to defend itself' in a 'world full of thieves'.

His comments came as negotiations with the international community over Iran's nuclear program ran into a stalemate, with Tehran saying world powers were 'demanding too much'.

'Battle and jihad are endless because evil and its front continue to exist,' Khamenei told MPs, according to a translation by US news site The Daily Caller.

'This battle will only end when the society can get rid of the oppressors' front with America at the head of it, which has expanded its claws on human mind, body and thought.

'This requires a difficult and lengthy struggle and need for great strides.'

The Daily Caller's translation of a Fars News Agency report is by a reporter pseudonymously bylined Reza Khalili, who claims to be a former CIA agent in Iran's Revolutionary Guard.

Khamenei's address to Parliament on Sunday continued with veiled references to the actions of the West and Arab states as he justified Iran's continued defiance of international sanctions against its nuclear program.

'Logic and reason command that for Iran, in order to pass through a region full of pirates, needs to arm itself and must have the capability to defend itself,' he said.

'Today's world is full of thieves and plunderers of human honor, dignity and morality who are equipped with knowledge, wealth and power, and under the pretense of humanity easily commit crimes and betray human ideals and start wars in different parts of the world.'

There has been little progress in the latest round of nuclear talks between Tehran and the US, Russia, France, Britain, China - the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - and Germany.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, speaking in Tehran today before a visit to Turkey for talks with European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, laid the blame for the impasse at the feet of the six powers.

'They should stop demanding too much. We have our red line, and they too want assurances that our nuclear program will always remain peaceful. We believe these two add up,' he was quoted as saying by state news agency IRNA.

'I feel the realism awakened from the last round of talks will bring us closer to conclusion. We may be able to remove one of two of the previous hurdles, or rather face new ones. In any case, we should make an effort to pass through this phase.'

Iran considers the right to enrich uranium for nuclear energy a red line but that levels of enrichment are negotiable.

Enriched uranium provides fuel for nuclear generating stations but it is also, if refined to a high level, the key ingredient for atomic bombs.

Western powers claim Iran's declared civilian nuclear energy program is a facade for seeking a weapons capability. Iran denies this but it has a history of hiding activity from UN nuclear inspectors.

The powers want Iran to agree to scale back enrichment and other nuclear activity and accept tougher UN inspections to prove it can't quickly build atomic bombs, in exchange for an end to economic sanctions.

But Mr. Zarif said world powers should refrain from additional pressure on the Islamic Republic to force it into concessions.

'Sanctions haven't served them any purpose, only led to our making 19,000 centrifuges,' he said, according to IRNA, referring to the machines that enrich uranium.

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Bulletin:

May 30, 2014

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe vowed Friday that his country would play a larger role in promoting peace in Asia, and called for the rule of law to be upheld in the region.

Laying out a vision of Tokyo as a counterweight to the growing might of China, Abe offered Japan's help to regional partners "to ensure security of the seas and skies".

He said Japan and the United States stood ready to bolster security cooperation with Australia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

"Japan intends to play an even greater and more proactive role than it has until now in making peace in Asia and the world something more certain," he said in a keynote speech at an annual Asia security forum in Singapore.

Abe said Japan will provide 10 new coast guard patrol ships to Philippines, which has one of Asia's most poorly equipped security forces.

He said three such vessels have already been provided to Indonesia and Vietnam may receive similar assistance.

Abe delivered his speech as tensions simmer over territorial disputes, involving China and some Southeast Asian states in the South China Sea as well as between Tokyo and Beijing in the East China Sea.

Beijing claims almost all of the South China Sea, even waters approaching the shores of neighboring countries, and has become more aggressive in enforcing what it says are its historical rights.

- 'Dangerous' maneuvers -

In the latest tensions, Vietnam on Thursday accused Chinese war ships of pointing their weapons at Vietnamese vessels during an escalating standoff near an oil rig in contested waters in the South China Sea.

The Philippines has also faced increasingly tense disputes with China for control of islets and reefs in the sea.

In one high-profile incident in 2012, the Philippines lost control of a rich fishing ground 220 kilometers (135 miles) off its main island to China after a standoff.

China is also in dispute with Japan over islands in the East Sea, which Tokyo calls Senkaku and Beijing refers to as Diaoyu. Tokyo has control over the outcrops.

On May 25, Japan accused China of "dangerous" maneuvers in the area after a Chinese fighter flew within roughly 30 meters (100 feet) of a Japanese military aircraft.

“We do not welcome dangerous encounters by fighter aircraft and vessels at sea,” Abe said, reiterating a call for both countries to establish a maritime and air communication mechanism in order to prevent unexpected situations.

Abe repeatedly used the phrase “rule of law” during his speech, urging nations to respect international norms in dealing with territorial rows, avoiding coercion in enforcing claims and settling disputes by peaceful means.

“I urge all of us who live in Asia and the Pacific to each individually uphold these three principles exhaustively,” he said at the Shangri-La Dialogue, a security forum involving defense chiefs, military officials and security experts.

“Movement to consolidate changes to the status quo by aggregating one fait accompli after another can only be strongly condemned as something that contravenes the spirit of these three principles,” he said, without mentioning any country.

Abe told the forum that talks were under way in his country about Japan’s pacifist armed forces taking on a more pro-active role in security.

US defense secretary Chuck Hagel told Abe during bilateral talks on the sidelines in Singapore that he welcomed the initiative, Japan’s Jiji Press news agency reported.

Japan’s Self Defense Forces have not fired a shot in battle since a battered and broken country surrendered in 1945, accepting a US-led occupation that would last until 1952.

Its once-huge armed forces were emasculated, stripped by the foreign-imposed constitution of the right to wage war and restricted to a defensive role.

Chinese state media said Abe had “played with international law to advance his thinly-veiled nationalist goals” in the address.

Speaking ahead of Abe on the sidelines of the Singapore meeting, Fu Ying, the head of the foreign affairs committee of China’s parliament, said the Japanese leader did not appear “to show any interest in addressing” their bilateral dispute.

Fu said Abe was trying to use the dispute as an excuse to “amend the security policy of Japan”, adding that this is “what is worrying to the region, and for China”.

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May 30, 2014

China said Friday it would promote its own security theory at an Asian defense forum this weekend, setting the scene for a clash with neighbor and rival Japan.

Beijing's delegation to the so-called Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore will be headed by Wang Guanzhong, deputy chief of the general staff of the People's Liberation Army, foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei told reporters.

The Chinese delegation will "fully elaborate on China's security concept in Asia", he said at a regular briefing.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is attending, will lay out at the meeting a vision of Tokyo – which has a security alliance with the US – as a counterweight to Beijing's growing might, Japan's Sankei Shimbun newspaper reported Thursday.

But at a regional summit last week Chinese President Xi Jinping warned that countries should not build up military alliances in Asia.

"To beef up an entrenched or military alliance targeted at a third party is not conducive to maintaining common security," Xi said, without naming names.

Beijing and Tokyo are embroiled in a bitter dispute over Japanese-controlled islands in the East China Sea.

Fu Ying, head of the foreign affairs committee of the National People's Congress, China's rubber-stamp parliament, will also attend the Dialogue, Hong added.

Fu is a former vice foreign minister and ex-ambassador to London, and is considered a more effective communicator than most Chinese officials.

The three-day Asia Security Summit, starting Friday, comes amid heightened tensions between China and its neighbors over maritime territorial rows.

As well as the dispute with Japan, China claims almost all of the South China Sea, parts of which are also claimed by the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam, all members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and non-member Taiwan.

The row between Beijing and Hanoi is currently the most volatile, after China deployed a drilling rig in contested waters, and escalated this week when Vietnam accused a Chinese vessel of ramming and sinking a fishing boat nearby.

No one was hurt in the incident, which Beijing blamed on the Vietnamese vessel.

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China's President Xi Jinping called for greater military communication with the US, saying as he opened high-level talks between the two countries that any conflict would be a global disaster.

China needs a stable environment “more than ever,” and it’s inevitable that the two sides will have some disputes, Xi said at the Diaoyutai guest house before the US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue in Beijing.

“A conflict between China and United States will definitely be a disaster for the two countries and the world,” Xi said. “As long as we uphold mutual respect, maintain strategic patience and remain unperturbed by individual incidents and comments, we’ll be able to keep relations on a firm footing despite ups and downs that may come our way.”

US Secretary of State John Kerry and Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew arrived yesterday for the sixth round of the dialogue, this year aimed at rehabilitating relations strained by differences over cyber espionage and escalating maritime disputes between China and US allies in the Asia Pacific. A year after US President Barack Obama and China’s Xi declared their support for “a new model of major power relations,” the two countries face two days of negotiation over issues from climate change to global security.

“The United States and China will not always see eye-to-eye on every issue,” Obama said in a statement released as the talks got underway in Beijing. “That is to be expected for two nations with different histories and cultures.”

◦

Bloomberg News Jul 8, 2014 8:03 PM PT

China remains suspicious over President Obama’s intention to rebalance its military forces to Asia, seeing the move as emboldening countries with which it has territorial disputes. Under Xi, China has tested US alliances in the region by pressing its claims to a large part of the South China Sea, riling Japan, Vietnam and the Philippines.

Kerry will deliver an unbiased US position on issues of sovereignty with respect to competing territorial claims, and emphasize the importance of peaceful diplomacy and adherence to international norms and law, an official said before the talks, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Kerry and Lew are joined by Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen and will meet with State Councilor Yang Jiechi and Premier Li Keqiang. While Kerry tackles the strategic differences, Lew will address tensions emanating from US firms’ growing complaints about access into the Chinese market, the official said.

There was trouble everywhere with the US caught in the middle. The situation in the Far East bad and getting worse and the same applied to the Middle East. And, there was the situation in the Crimea and Ukraine; each ticking time bomb.

◦

My name is Rollin James Reynolds. Most folks call me Smoke or Smokey. I was US Army Infantry all 37 years and made E-9 on my next to last hitch. That was after 5 years as a First Sergeant. The E-9 promotion was to Command Sergeant Major, the senior enlisted rank in the Brigade. Thank the Lord for those 5 years as First Sergeant; I'd have never been able to handle it otherwise. I served at that rank for 4½ years.

“What now Sergeant Major?”

“Colonel, I was thinking about picking up a small place in the Arkansas Ozarks.”

“That’s your home of record, isn’t it?”

“Yes sir. I don’t think I will relocate to Harrison; it’s become a Mecca for the Klan. Have their headquarters in a suburb, Zinc.”

“I thought they were mostly gone in this day and age.”

“They mostly are sir. I was thinking about either Mountain Home or Jonesboro. The disadvantage of Jonesboro is that it’s in the New Madrid Seismic Zone so I’ll probably find a place in Mountain home.”

“Anywhere you locate Sergeant Major has some kind of natural disaster occurring. Arkansas has its share of tornados.”

◦

That was back in 2006. I found a piece of undeveloped property of ~4 acres south of Mountain Home. I could see why it was undeveloped; it wasn’t the most attractive building site. The real estate agent did some research on the property at my request. It had been acquired by a group of 3 doctors who intended to put in a spa. They drilled for water in three locations, never finding enough flow to justify building the spa. However, the combined flow of the 3 wells would support one home. I made a lowball offer on the property and I’ll be damned if they didn’t accept it.

I tracked down a well-used Airstream and had a domicile. Add to that a box at one of those mail box places and I had an address. I had a septic system installed and I had sewer. Then, I contracted the well driller.

“Were you sure none of those well would produce an adequate flow?”

“Where did you get that idea?”

“I had the realtor check into it.”

“Nobody contacted me. Any of the three would produce the water they needed. That’s provided they would have let me drill deeper. Yankees! Were in the Ozark Mountains and sometimes you have to drill down to where the water is. This piece of land is in the White River watershed and that last well was showing promise. I left the pipes in the 3 holes and filled them with drilling mud. I could probably bring in all 3 wells in 3 weeks.”

“What would it cost me?”

“One or all three? Setup and dismantling is \$500 whether you go 1 or 3. I charge by the foot on the drilling so if we do the most promising first, you get by the cheapest. If you want a guaranteed flow rate, we may have to do the second and the third.”

“I can go up to \$3,500.”

“Pumps separate?”

“Yes.”

“Mister, you just bought yourself a well or 3.”

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I didn’t have power either and had to get by with a 12kw China diesel. Needless to say, I usually slept in and went to bed shortly after sundown. I had 2 25 gallon (100 pound) propane bottles that I swapped out. So far I’d been getting water in town; bottled for drinking and 5 gallon cans for the stool/sink. With my expenses next to nothing, I had money for each of my acquisitions and paid cash.

Being single, I had been able to save all my earnings in excess of my pay as an E-5. I had some in the bank, and the rest in my GI surplus footlocker. That was most of 30 years of savings. Silver and gold Eagles making up the major amounts with Junk silver the lesser amount but the greater bulk; one third in the bank account with the remainder in the footlocker. My retirement pay was direct deposit and I keep an eye on gold and silver prices. Saving as I did paid a bonus when I retired since I was used to living on less than I earned. I just made the cutoff where you didn’t get your retirement before age 65; I enlisted in ‘69 and got to see the jungle twice. Got to see the Desert for the Storm, too.

The first well produced 15gpm, the second 18gpm and the third 27gpm giving me a total flow of 60gpm. He supplied the well pumps, which I paid for, and I provided the PV panels, batteries and inverters. I asked him which well site had the most soil above the rock. The first had 13’, the second 26’ and the third ~40’. My new home would go over the third well because it had the greatest volume and the most soil. I purchased a 10,000 gallon cistern and plumed all the wells to the cistern. A single float switch would cut off all the pumps or 3 float switches would cut off the 3 individually. I went with 3 so I could have replacements if 1 or 2 went bad.

I had the excavator dig the hole 21' deep. Then, using a pick and shovel, dug out a space for 1,000 gallon septic tank with a sewage pump and connected it to my septic tank. That was a nasty job making that connection. Then, I dug a second hole for a 1,000 gallon cistern and connected it to my main cistern. The shelter pressure tank was fed by the smaller cistern.

The next part was contracted because I'm no bricklayer or mason. I had a foundation put in that was the size of the log cabin I'd picked out on the Internet, 32'w×44'l. I carefully explained that I wanted I beams placed on top of the 9' layer but I wanted the block wall to extend to the ground level. I had the construction modified.

"That doesn't make any sense. It's obvious that that's a shelter of some type but why do you want to go to the surface?"

"Footings for my new home?"

"Still don't make no sense but it's your money."

The reason it didn't make sense because the guy failed mind reading. I had them block out one corner in the overhead and lay block to ground level. It was the escape tunnel although I'm convinced that he thought it was the entrance tunnel. I didn't have them do the backfill and hired the Ready-Mix to do the pour and backfill separately. Before they poured the overhead, I had them form the set in the 10" thick wall for the Blast Door from USS. As they poured, they enclosed the shelter overhead and built the entrance ramp to the Blast Door. The job foreman just said, "Clever."

I bought the log cabin after the wells were dug and it was ready and paid for when I called to arrange delivery and assembly.

"I just don't get it. Propane water heater without a stove and refrigerator. How are you going to handle those?"

"That Franklin type stove puts out enough BTUs to heat the place doesn't it?"

"I'm sure with coal it probably does. Is that what you're going to do is burn wood and coal?"

"Along with some propane, yes."

The stove was on order from Lehman's, a Heartland Sweetheart with reservoir, as was the refrigerator, a Diamond (18ft³) Gas Refrigerator without Freezer, and a freezer from Sears, a 25ft³ chest type. I intended to have electric power using PV panels with a Wind Turbine for backup along with a 30kw propane fueled generator and grid power if all else failed.

I had the fuel tanks but they were far from full. I got the PV panels and Wind Turbine from one company and they installed both, making sure that they switched properly. When they tried to sell me the submarine batteries, I played dumb and asked if that would require another circuit. They replied that it wouldn't unless I had a generator.

"It's a 30kw propane fueled and I want access to the grid."

Well, that's different."

"Here's the deal, feed the batteries from the PV panels and Wind Turbine and wire it so that if the batteries get too low it goes to commercial first and the generator last."

"Why that way?"

"If the commercial is out, it will automatically go to the generator. And, the generator will help recharging the batteries. You can set it so it won't switch back to batteries until they're maybe 30% recharged can't you?"

"We can do anything. Can you afford it?"

"Yes, put in 2 banks with 2 spares, dry."

Never let them see you sweat, it's unbecoming. The diesel tank wasn't that large, 5,000 gallons. The gas tank was a mere 500 gallons but the propane was big, a used 30,000 gallon tank with new relief valve. I had diesel for my Dodge Ram with the original 6BT engine. The gas was for my 2 Stihl chainsaws.

It's easier, at this point to tell you what I didn't have rather than what I had. I didn't have 10,000 gallons of propane to finish filling the tank, just as I didn't have 2,500 gallons of diesel to finish filling the diesel tank. The only firearms I had were a M1911A1 and a M1 carbine. I bought them both well used from another Sergeant. I did have 11 of the 15 round magazines and some Speer Gold Dot Personal Protection 110gr .30 carbine, about 500 rounds and 200gr +P .45ACP Gold Dot, about 3 boxes. I didn't have a fancy first aid kit and only a one year supply from Walton Foods.

What I did have was Gold Eagles, several in all denominations and silver Eagles, too, plus some junk silver. I went to the local gun dealer and asked if he could get me a Springfield Armory M1A. He had a Standard and Loaded in stock and could have a National Match or Super Match within a week. I asked him if he could call Illinois and find out if they could mount the Super Match parkerized action and barrel in a black McMillan M3A stock. He called, they could but it would take 2-3 weeks for delivery and cash up front. I bought the Loaded and the Super Match and 2 slings. I could get everything else that I wanted at another store.

Then I drove down to Little Rock and cashed in 80 ounces of gold at spot -2.5%. I found a store with a supply of magazines and bought 50 (CMI – 20s). After I returned home, I

ordered 20 500 round cases of PMC .308 147gr FMJ from Ammoman. With that out of the way, I rented a Ryder truck and headed to Idaho. I bought 9 more of those deluxe supplies and headed to Orem to get 10 years from Emergency Essentials. I over did there. I compared what one got and bought 10 Gourmet 2000 packages, mainly because it was on sale.

Well, I figured what the hell; I had 20 years' worth of food and even a grain mill, flaker and 2 30 quart All American canners so I was almost set. I picked up the Loaded and he told me that the Super Match should be in the first of the week. So, I bought a Mossberg 590A1 (this one came with the bayonet) and ordered 5 cases each of Remington 3" Express Magnum 00 and no. 4 buckshot plus 10 cases of Brenneke 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ oz 3" Black Magic slugs (Wilhelm Brenneke brought the modern slug onto the market in 1898). He offered me some 175gr Black Hills BTHP at his delivered cost so I took all 18 500 round cases he had on hand. It wasn't selling... too expensive.

That filled in the loose ends except for the fuel. After I unloaded the truck and hauled the stuff down the ramp and stacked it, it occurred to me that the shelter was pretty bare. I had the walls up, insulated, drywall applied, taped and painted but no furniture or communications gear. So there was more to buy than just the fuel. Damn.

From then on until the tanks were full, the only trip I made off the homestead was to pick up my rifle and ammo. By mid-2007, the bank account had a balance and I bought a queen sized bed for each of the bedrooms (2), linens, kitchenware, dishes and cutlery (the cheap stuff). After I purchased the communications equipment, a used multiband base station and a Galaxy SSB base station, a US Towers HDX-689MDPL Tower with 4 standoffs, the heavy duty rotor, 20' chromolly mast, RCM-1000 remote control, MDPL-1000 drive motor, beams, CB, Business Band and a D123J vertical and Cobra SSB CB for my pickup, I figure I was about done.

One night mid-2008, I'm talking to a guy on my Galaxy and mentioned I had a Kenwood TS-2000. He asked what my call sign was and I told him my handle. He said he knew my handle, but what was my call sign granted to me by the FCC. I did the un-duh bit and he said don't get caught. I must have missed something when I bought the used HF radio. I got my Technician and General license and stopped to catch my breath. The Extra Class exam was hard but I passed it the second time.

It just seemed that I should add an HF radio to my pickup and I bought another used TS-2000. I didn't work like the first one so I went to see the guy who sold me the first one. He said if I drive him out to my place, he'd 'fix it'. I went out to my pickup and brought it in and he 'fixed it' in almost no time. Then, he said, don't get caught, e.g. only use the illegal channels if WWII happened. I studied some more and restricted the radio use to the legal channels. Then, to round out the truck equipment, I added a Cobra 148 GTX SSB and another business band CM300.

It sure seemed like I was being told 'Don't get caught' every time I turned around. When I thought about it, it would be just my luck to be arrested by the FCC during WWII.

Those Iranian Grand Ayatollahs, whether named Ruhollah Khomeini or Ali Khamenei in their steadfast devotion to the idea that the United States is the Great Satan and Israel is a US lackey. I doubt that BiBi would agree with that sentiment. After all, we did supply Israel with 15 new F-15E advanced range Strike Eagles as foreign aid. Plus 5,000 of the 2,000 pound GBUs (Bunker Busters), at our expense. Although Hassan Rouhani replaced Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, my sense of the matter is 'same track, different train'. The former spoke loudly and carried a small stick and the latter spoke softly and carried a Louisville slugger.

Think about it; Russia is a major arms supplier to China and India. Both are supporters of Iran in the UN Security Council. Plus they've supported Assad in the Syrian Civil War. As an Infantry CSM, I got a belly ache so bad Doc put me on Prilosec; plus aspirin as a blood thinner. Of course aspirin is counter-indicated when using Prilosec because NSAIDs irritate your stomach.

As I read TOM's and Jerry's stories, I pick up a few ideas. I needed a McMillan Tac-50, plus 4,000 rounds each of Hornady 750gr AMAX match and 33½ cans of Mk 211MP. I had 2 rifles and a shotgun with a PPK in .380 carried in an ankle holster but was apparently short on magazines. I replaced the 7 round magazines with 7 8 round stainless magazines. The new magazines didn't fit in the 7 round magazine pouches. I replaced them with Ripoff CO-21V Double Pistol magazine pouches.

The Tac-50 in the newer Tac-50A1R2 had jumped in price, about 2 grand. The rifle cost \$11,990; McCann Industries Mc50 Night Vision Mount; Elite Iron Alpha 50 suppressor, 8 extra magazines plus shipping and sales tax. Maybe I should buy a drag bag. Ammo would be Hornady 750gr AMAX match which came 200 rounds to the case for about a grand per case.

But did I have good enough contacts with my friends in the Army who hadn't retired? My choices were to sell more gold, save up the money or a combination of both. That wasn't a hard choice since 100 ounces of gold together with my checking account balance and a wait would get everything except the Mk 211MP and the Magnum Universal Night Sight, AN/PVS-27. I would need night vision for my Super Match but there was a less expensive product in the Universal Night Sight AN/PVS-22 with a range that matched the rifle. So I started to save for that.

Since the Tac-50 had a suppressor, I checked out silencer manufacturers. The one with best guarantee was Surefire and it went on my 'need to buy list'. It appeared that I'd need the FA-762-K model and I might just as well use the MB-762-213F muzzle break adapter because it reduced the recoil slightly. I could figure which adapter the rifle would need and headed to Little Rock to get the straight scoop.

"End Mount or overlap?"

"End Mounts."

“A Loaded, National Match or Super Match?”

“A Loaded and a Super Match.”

“Flashhider, Compensator or Muzzle Brake?”

“Muzzle Brakes.”

“Fill these out, get your prints and come back. I’ll submit the papers when Surefire gives me the serial numbers. Is this the first time buying a NFA Registry item?”

“Yes.”

“Figure the better part of nine months.”

“Would you have a threaded barrel for an M1911A1?”

“Seventy-five dollars. Which brand of suppresser?”

“Whatever is the quietest?”

“Ok, AWC. Want an Amphibian too?”

“What’s that?”

“A Mark III Ruger integrally suppressed. Sixteen hundred.”

“Sure. Add a case of Lapua Subsonic .22LR.”

“Be sure you have the \$800 for the ATF when you come back.”

It took hours to get fingerprinted, pull the cash from my bank account and return to the dealer. After I handed him the signed documents, fingerprint cards and \$800, he handed me the invoice for the firearms. Fortunately he’d take a check since he had plenty of time to cash it. It actually only took 7 months; Veteran’s bonus?”

I began to look forward to actually retiring. Two more years of Obama and we’d be free. I didn’t feel old at 62 and could get around pretty well. I had a beef and 2 hogs in the freezer along with a fair selection of frozen vegetables, butter, hams, bacon and sausage. The propane refrigerator had gone down the ramp to the shelter and was replaced with combination refrigerator/freezer, still propane.

While I could have gotten by with refilling the propane and diesel once a year, I went for early spring and late fall. When I shopped, I usually went to the Super Wal-Mart in Flip-

pin and the Super Wal-Mart in Mountain Home. After four years of double shopping mostly sale items, I had the one year supply of STS.

The gas tank was refilled by dumping my 5 gas cans in after I refreshed the PRI-G in the cans. Then I added another 9.25ml of PRI-G and refilled them with premium in town. In the beginning I had told someone I heated with wood, coal and propane. Coal rooms are usually in basements near the wood/coal furnace. My plan had been to use the wood/coal burning Franklin type stove. I purely outfoxed myself, lacking coal storage.

From the time the cabin was habitable, I'd ordered anthracite from a local dealer, one dump truck load at a time. He, of course, was buying it by the rail car, marking it up and charging a delivery fee.

There wasn't enough wood on my 4 acres to make harvesting it worthwhile. The cutting area in the National Forests wouldn't let you harvest hardwood, either. So, I ended up buying my wood, too. One guy offered a package deal, 19 cords of hardwood and 1 cord of softwood split and stacked for \$3,000. Based on expectations, that would be a 4-5 year supply for the kitchen stove so I went with it. I half expected them to deliver 20 pickup loads and call it twenty cords. I suggested that I needed the exercise and offered to stack to wood for them.

"If you want, ok, stack it. I don't cheat my customers and you will get 128ft³ of softwood and 2,432ft³ of hardwood for a total of 2,560ft³."

"But I can help if I'm in the mood?"

"Yes you can. Just don't get in the mood to move any of the wood into that cabin until the delivery is complete."

"I surely won't."

I think they delivered a little extra, 12ft³ of softwood and 25ft³ of hard wood, but I'm not really sure.

"Are you going to want another order in 2 years? We like to plan ahead and if you say yes, we'll have it whether you want it or not."

"Same price?"

"Market price at the time. It's this package deal that actually keeps us in business. Many folks put off getting wood for their fireplace and we generally have at least one or two package customers turn us down, giving us wood to sell. Market on a single delivery is far higher than the package deals."

"Go ahead and put me down for the package in 2 years. Here's your check."

We're into 2012 and I'd just read that business about the Sunburn missile. Everything was coming along according to plan. My thinking was that war wouldn't break out until 2015 or 2016. It depended on Putin, Obama and China. But then, it always seemed to depend on Russia, China and the US. I did 2 in Iraq and 1 in Afghanistan and that was more than enough.

I'd tracked down Avon Products and purchased 2 M50 Joint Service General Purpose Masks along with several cases of filters. At least these filters lasted 36 hours instead of 8 hours and signaled when they expired. The principal thing was that the masks didn't dissolve in the presence of some of the war gases. I bought 2 because I'm still single and am not looking for someone to share my life with. That usually means that you need 2 of everything and I barely had enough to buy one of everything.

I happened on a website named Frugal Squirrels. After reading some of the posts, I speculated that the site once hosted Patriot Fiction. So, I tried searching for Patriot Fiction with Yahoo. I found Time Bomb 2000, which eventually led me to <http://www.jerrydyoung.com>. Which led me to TOM and an E-Bay link for his stories http://www.ebay.com/itm/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=170861827290#ht_3464wt_1185. Apparently Jerry had a CD but it was sold out. In response to an inquiry, Jerry had 100 printed and they sold quickly. TOM also had 100 printed but one of the discs had a printing error and his representatives got a second 100 as a replacement. E-Bay only shows 50+ sold so there must be a bunch available. Near as I can tell, TOM and Jerry have been or have become friends.

Considering the differences in their writing styles, that was surprising. I sent TOM a note about the 2012 post that I used as a prologue and he said he'd get back to me when it made sense to him. I'm still waiting. He'll probably use it as the basis for a story and send me a copy when it's done.

World War Three – Chapter 3

I should have paid better attention the news. China was making an all-out effort to bringing the China Sea into their sphere of influence and the Russia/Japan spat over Kurils was heating up. Most of the activity could be blamed on PRC forces, first the Navy and more recently their Air Force.

Japan offered to buy 36 F-22 Raptors, presuming they could get Congress to agree, for \$350 million each plus spare parts and select munitions purchased separately and a separate service contract they'd buy from Lockheed-Martin. They further offered to double their order of F-35As. If the US was willing to sell the recently retired nuclear carrier CVN-65 *USS Enterprise*, for \$1 billion with aircraft separate, they'd take it plus 12–14 F/A-18E or F Super Hornets as strike fighters; two squadrons of 10-12 F/A-18C Hornets, also as strike fighters; 4-6 EA-6B Prowlers for electronic warfare; 4-6 E-2C Hawkeyes used for airborne early warning; C-2 Greyhounds used for logistics; and a Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron of 6-8 SH-60F & HH-60H Seahawks. They'd do the refueling and updating under American direction. When built, the *Enterprise* cost \$451.3 million.

I figured fat chance, what about the Japanese Constitution and the law against exporting Raptors? The US was either in worse financial shape than I imaged or Japan had deeper pockets than I imagined. Congress approved the deal he brought to them and advised Obama to get it executed post haste. Japan had cornered nearly every market for upgrade parts and let a contract to upgrade the reactors using their fuel. China filed a protest in the UN and nobody that mattered listened.

You heard late last year the Abe was trying to get the prohibitions against nukes eliminated didn't you? I figured 'never happen'; and I was wrong. The Japanese population was getting mighty tired of China pushing them around and they repealed that law in a close vote. They also withdrew from the NNPT, without explanation.

Japan did the carrier in two years. The ship looked almost new. They had Japanese reactors, a bit more powerful and Japanese electronics; they do make some of the best. Furthermore, Abe was pushing for a new a Mutual Defense Treaty with the US. Obama signed it and the Senate confirmed it. Oh well, we were still in a dispute with Russia over the Crimea/Ukraine and China was fighting the cyber espionage charges.

Just to make matters worse, someone test fired a fission-fusion-fission weapon in the South Indian Ocean. Absolutely nobody claimed credit. It wasn't North Korea, they always use underground tests. That leaves 1 likely candidate and 2 probable: Iran, Japan and Germany.

Iran held the line; their program was peaceful; always had been and always would be. Japan denied having the time for such nonsense. They were turning away from nuclear power and going to Wind and Photo-Voltaic. Every square inch in their island chain

would be used to generate electricity. If China didn't like it, they'd fight. The German Chancellor said, 'Not that I'm aware of'. Ask me and I'll tell you all 3 are probably lying.

Not to take a chance, I called the firewood guy and asked if I could get that next package a year early. I could and the price was only up \$15 per cord. I told him to bring it and I'd show them where to stack it. Then I called the coal guy and ordered 3 truckloads extra for a total of 4 to be delivered when I called. I went through the pantry and made a list of needed STS. There were plenty of Wal-Mart Super stores, I'd get it somewhere. I was good on meat.

I had 10,000+ rounds of 147gr FMJ 7.62, 8,500+ rounds of 175gr BTHP 7.62, 6,000 rounds of 168gr PPU match BTHP and enough shotgun and pistol ammo for a while but ordered another case of 200gr +P .45ACPGold Dot, just in case. There was 4,800+ Mk 211 and 4,800+ Hornady 750gr AMAX.

I also had 2 illegal rifles, a 5.56 and a 7.62 manufactured by H&K with 40mm grenade launchers. The ammo for those was more match grade Serbian PPU (62gr .223 and 168gr .308). The 40mm grenades were US 'surplus' as were the assorted hand grenades and rockets. They can only lock you up once. ATF only checked my silencers once and I haven't seen them since. Surefire makes adapters for the HK416 and HK417. So, I bought spare silencers for my '5.56' and 'Loaded'.

For most of my career, my rifle was an M-16; first an A1 and later an A2. When I carried a pistol it was the Beretta M9. The Army in its infinite wisdom had seen fit to provide weapons that were beyond useless when they got dirty or under powered forcing one to double or triple tap. And, for the life of me, I couldn't understand the shortening of the barrels; then there was the NATO compliant M855 with an exit hole almost smaller than the entrance hole.

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I think World War Three started when the Japanese stood up to the Chinese. It was strictly conventional at the outset. A Chinese jet tried to take down a Japanese jet with a missile, overlooking the Japanese pilot's wingman. The Chinese missile lost lock, apparently, and the Japanese wingman fired a Sidewinder X, smoking the Chinese plane. The Chinese wingman, apparently decided he was out of position and turned west. The Japanese didn't follow.

There were several incidents of that nature during late '15 and early '16. The Japanese Maritime self-defense force had 4 Kongō class DDGs with 4 more in consideration. It also had 2 Atago class with 6 more under construction. The former were basically Arleigh Burke class Flight I and the latter were Arleigh Burke class Flight IIa.

While the Maritime Self-Defense Force wasn't large, it included one or more of the following:

4 DDH – Helicopter carrier/destroyer
6 DDG – Guided missile destroyer
12 DD – Destroyer
2 DDA – All-purpose destroyer
3 DDK – Anti submarine Destroyer
10 DE – Destroyer escort
1 PF – Patrol frigate
11 SS – Submarine
1 MHS – Ocean mine hunter/sweeper
6 MHC – Coastal mine hunter/sweeper
1 AW – Amphibious warfare ship
1 Aircraft carrier with Air Wings that included 32–38 F/A-18 C/E/F, 4–6 EA-6B, 4–6 E-2C, C-2 6–8 SH-60F and HH-60H.

Japan also had a processing plant to recover radioactive materials and began with the rods from Fukushima Daiichi and moved on to other fuel rods after they were cooled enough for processing. The US DOE was aware of the activity and looking forward to purchasing the converted radioactive materials.

When I heard/read that, it didn't make sense. The US had storage problems for its spent fuel rods and was working on reducing the number of nukes. I thought maybe they were buying the material to prevent the Japanese from starting their own Manhattan Project. Some individuals believed that Japan had its own Manhattan Project during WW II and had actually tested a weapon, another 'conspiracy theory'. The US had gone to great lengths to prevent both the Nazis and the Imperial Japanese from developing nuclear weapons if you believe the Discovery Channel.

As Japan perceived a growing external threat without adequate forces to counter it, the National Safety Forces underwent further development that entailed difficult political problems. The war renunciation clause of the constitution was the basis for strong political objections to any sort of armed force other than conventional police force. In 1954, however, separate land, sea, and air forces for purely defensive purposes were created, subject to the command of the Prime Minister.

To avoid the appearance of a revival of militarism, Japan's leaders emphasized constitutional guarantees of civilian control of the government and armed forces and used nonmilitary terms for the organization and functions of the forces. At first, tanks were called "special vehicles". The forces' administrative department was granted only an agency status, rather than a full-fledged ministry status. The armed forces were designated the Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF), the Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF), and the Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF), instead of the army, navy, and air force. In theory, these are not armed forces, but merely extensions of the Police Force.

Although possession of nuclear weapons is not explicitly forbidden in the constitution, Japan, as the only nation to have experienced the devastation of nuclear attacks, expressed early its abhorrence of nuclear arms and its determination never to acquire

them. The Atomic Energy Basic Law of 1956 limits research, development, and utilization of nuclear power to peaceful uses only, and beginning in 1956, national policy has embodied “three non-nuclear principles” – forbidding the nation to possess or manufacture nuclear weapons or to allow them to be introduced into its territories. In 1976 Japan ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (adopted by the United Nations Security Council in 1968) and reiterated its intention never to “develop, use, or allow the transportation of nuclear weapons through its territory.” Nonetheless, because of its generally high technology level and large number of operating nuclear power plants, Japan is generally considered to be “nuclear capable,” i.e., it could develop a usable weapon in a short period of time if the political situation changed significantly.

On June 8, 2006, the Cabinet of Japan endorsed a bill elevating the Defense Agency under the Cabinet Office to full-fledged cabinet level Ministry of Defense. This was passed by the Diet in December 2006.

Japan’s principal military contractor was Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.

Japan’s Air Force had ~769 aircraft, of which approximately 350 are fighter aircraft, including:

Attack: F-2

Electronic warfare: E-767, EC-1, E-2C

Fighter: F-4EJ, F-15J/DJ, F-2, F-35A

Helicopter: UH-60J, CH-47J, KV-107

Interceptor: F-15J

Trainer: F-15DJ, T-7, T-400, T-4

Transport: C-1, KC-767J, C-130H

These didn’t include the recently acquired F-22s or the naval aircraft for their ‘new carrier’.

Do you trust the Japanese? After the sneak attack on 12-7-41, we fought them for almost 4 years and defeated them only by use of the 2 atomic bombs. When they had the 2011 earthquake, they were less than forthcoming, initially. Their activities during WW II included more than their share of atrocities; they didn’t follow the Rules of War. When we were hit by Katrina in 2005, they did provide aid... \$10,000.

How much did we spend trying to help them clean up Fukushima Daiichi? I don’t know... that’s why I put it as a question. I’m sure it cost the Coast Guard more than \$10,000 to sink that wayward ship. Remember, Japan is generally considered to be

“nuclear capable.” Overall that begs the question of who detonated the nuke in the southern Indian Ocean; it could have been Iran, Germany or Japan. Whoever it was didn't deliver it with a missile or we'd already know who it was from the Space Command. The estimated yield was ~1mT. Have they become Yamamoto's 'sleeping giant'?

My best guess of the activity in the western Pacific was that Japan was calling China's bluff. Elimination of the nuclear plants called for an affordable solution not depending on petroleum which Japan had to import. Hence the selection of Wind and Photo-Voltaic sourced electricity. Many of the producers of Photo-Voltaic panels were Japanese firms.

The Japanese Naval Forces and their Air Forces were, for the most part, better than the Chinese Air Forces since the J-20 was still in testing/development. Witness the air battle described earlier involving a pair of J-10s.

With everything topped off, the price gold and silver down and other reasons, I began reacquiring some of the gold and silver Eagles, generally 1 or 2 ounce(s) at a time. The HK417 did very well on the PPU 168gr Match BTHP and I began acquiring it as I had funds and it was available. The rifling on the HK416 essentially performed better with a bullet of 62 grains or higher. I purchased PPU .223 69grn Match BTHP, also purchased when I had funds and it was available. Due to the difference in the price of 5.56 vs. 7.62, I had the 5.56 in almost no time. The 7.62 which I had plenty of was purchased after the 5.56, except for the first case. I could always use the 147gr in the HK417.

I'd opened some of the cans of the various foods from Walton to see what I liked and didn't. Thirty-seven years of Army chow halls must have killed my taste buds. All of it was acceptable and some of it actually good. So I bought bulk bags of what I really enjoyed along with pails, lids, Mylar bags, oxygen absorbers and desiccants and packed a few of my own. Mountain House products were replaced 1 for 1 except for the really great items that I bought a case of 6 #10 cans at a time. Along with 50% of other Americans I drank Folgers, preferring the classic roast and usually bought that 6 or 12 cans at a time.

Northern tissue was okay but Charmin was ultra-soft and there are those things you can never have too much of. Every time I shopped, I bought two of the largest bundles. The pile of coal outside was beyond inconvenient so I had to come up with something better. The end result was a 3 sided coal bin with a slab floor and a wheelbarrow to haul coal to the inside coal box. I had lunch and went outside to level the coal. It took all four loads, rounded and I covered it with a tarp.

On the electric side of the equation, I generated more than I used and fed the grid. When you're living on a 37/40 military pension, every penny counts. You get 2½% for every year served or 92.5% in my case. When I heard a rumor we might get stopped-loss for another tour in Afghanistan, I put in my retirement papers. I'd have had to reenlist for 3 more anyway, so why chance it?

Then, a friend from my service days looked me.

“Quite the hideout you have here. Resign from the world as well as the Army?”

“I didn’t resign, I retired. How did you find me Steve?”

“They had me checking out the disappearance of some ordnance. The usual, LAW rockets, 40mm grenades, assorted hand grenades, Mk 211 and then I tripped across the fact that you’d retired in 2006. It took me a while to find you but the Colonel suggested I check out Mountain Home. Do you have the stuff?”

“No.”

“Do you know who does?”

“No.”

“Would you tell me if you did know?”

“No. I do have a shovel and my plot is only 4 acres so search if you want.”

“Nah, I’m going to close the case and retire to Gassville.”

“That your home of record?”

“Yep.”

“Mine was Harrison.”

“Thom Robb and that bunch?”

“That’s them.”

“You still single?”

“Haven’t even looked.”

“Since Marion died, I just couldn’t get into the dating scene. Thirty one years you know. So, I think I’ll stay with being a widower bachelor.”

“This is a 2 bedroom cabin and it does have extra features.”

“Rockets, grenades and such?”

“More like total energy independence, a lifetime supply of propane, plenty of wood, coal and food. I just finished filling in my 5.56 and 7.62 ammo and heard about another used 30,000 gallon propane tank.”

“Another?”

“I told you I had a lifetime supply. That’s excluding running my 30kw generator. Have you been paying any mind to the Far East?”

“China is really pushing.”

“The Japanese are pushing back. They bought the *USS Enterprise* and have refurbished it. Hell, it looks brand new. The US government not only sold Japan F-35As, but 36 F-22s. It appears that they’re installing Wind Turbines and Photo-Voltaic panels everywhere they can. Plus they’re processing the fuel rods from the shutdown nuclear reactors.”

“Do you suppose they were behind that Southern Indian Ocean nuclear test?”

“It has to be them, Iran or Germany.”

“Were you serious about putting me up?”

“I was.”

“How much do you think that tank will run you?”

“About fifteen grand, why.”

“Let me make out a check and you buy the tank. I’ll be back in 6-8 weeks to take up residence.”

The tank had a new relief valve, had been sand blasted and painted. The delivered price was \$15,000. There was room for a second tank next to the first, and more if they were needed. The excavation ran about \$1,500 and the tanks were plumbed together. I ordered my first 3,000 gallon load of propane. One down and nine to go.

I had the 2nd load of propane in before Steve showed up. I had to laugh when he began unload his weapons and ammo. He had a Tac-50A1R2 fully equipped, a Super Match identical to mine, a Loaded identical to mine, a 590A1 identical to mine and nearly the same ammunition. His pistol was a Taurus PT1911B which used 8 round magazines. Then, he dug deeper and produced the H&K rifles, the same as I had, with Surefire suppressors. None of his armory was ‘on the books’. The surely applied to the Mk 211, M72A7 rockets and assorted hand grenades; the only difference I noticed was that his M14 magazines held 25 rounds.

“And you were busting my chops about the Mk 211, 40mm grenades and the rest of the stuff.”

“I already knew you had them. I was simply gauging your reaction to the questions. How soon before I have to buy a load of propane?”

“You buy the next 2 loads and then we’ll switch to every other month.”

“I can do 2 loads immediately and we could each buy a load per month until we’re topped off. That will have it full in about 3 months, right?”

“Right. Where’d you get the 25 round magazines?”

“I used Yahoo Search for ‘Checkmate Industries (CMI) 25 round M14/M1A magazines’ and found several vendors. I bought from the guy with the best prices. I also have 50 of the 20 round CMI Magazines that I got first.”

“Do they feed okay?”

“I’ve never had a problem with them but I heard others claim that they had nothing but bad luck with them. If you want to buy my 20 round magazines for what I have in them, I’ll take the money, add to it and buy more of the 25 round magazines.”

“How about I buy some and if I don’t like them I trade the 25s for your 20s?”

“Works for me.”

World War Three – Chapter 4

“So, what do you do for entertainment around here?”

“I’m not much of a social creature Steve. Maybe get a little range time about every 6 weeks, checkout a novel from the library, spend a little time on the CB or Ham radio. I keep a little booze on hand and on a special occasion, might have a drink or 3. I’ve got a couple spots on the White River for fishing. I usually spend at least an hour every day keeping current, worldwide.”

“That’s it?”

“Now days, yes. When I first got out, I found the property, got the wells and septic put in, built the shelter and had the cabin erected, got the fuel tanks and eventually filled them. Then there was the power and resolving issues like the coal storage and getting fire-wood. Plus there was the communication gear and getting a ham license.”

“What shelter?”

“Come on, I’ll show you. You pull up this section flooring and follow the ramp down. The door at the bottom of the ramp is a Swiss Blast door I got from Utah Shelter Systems. The air purifier came from American Safe Rooms and it’s their larger model.”

“Where is your generator?”

“It’s in a room that extends beyond the ramp. To move it, a person would have to take down a solid block wall. General access is from the shelter.”

“How big is the shelter?”

“About 31’ wide and a little over 39’ long. The cabin is 32’x44’ and the stairwell is a full 4’ wide with a 10” reinforced concrete wall leaving the shelter at 39’ 2” or about 1,253ft². That enough space for 12 people if one allows 100ft² per person. It’s fairly well equipped with a propane refrigerator and 25ft³ Sears chest freezer, a 4 in 1 kitchen and large storage room. There’s an easy 20 years of food for one stored plus a few extras like toilet paper, coffee, tea, vegetable oil and the like.”

“How you going to keep the upstairs plumbing from freezing?”

“Self-regulating heat tapes plus Anti-freeze and Rid-X after I flush the anti-freeze. ‘Course I have the septic pumped every year.”

“You’ve been planning.”

“Some.”

“Some of your friends said that if I ran into Smoke to not say Hi.”

“Can you blame them?”

“After the way you raped Logistics, I can’t say I can.”

“And I paid for everything in gold.”

“Whatcha got around here to eat?”

“MREs or real food?”

“If I never see another MRE...”

“Don’t say it. I got some you might like that I got from Nitro-Pak. Run about 1,800 calories and aren’t half bad.”

“Denver omelet and toast?”

“Yeah, I can do that.”

“No livestock?”

“Get a bunch of pullets every spring. Butcher half when their fryer size and keep the rest for eggs until they’re baking hen size. Tried the feeder beef and hogs but it was too much work so I buy a cut and wrapped Black Angus and a couple of hogs every couple of years.

“You know to watch for copperhead and moccasins, right?”

“Yeah. How do you deal with them?”

“AWC amphibian and leave ‘em lay. Let’s get upstairs and I’ll dice the ham, green pepper and onion. There’s a gun safe in your bedroom for M1A, shotgun, and pistols. I think I’ll have the same. Hash browns?”

“If it’s no trouble.”

“You want a little cheese on top?”

“Why not?”

I started the hash browns, got out 6 eggs, whipped up 3 of them and started cutting. I had his omelet cooking and dropped 2 slices of bread in the toaster. Cheese Whiz and the microwave provided the topping. I had his plated and my omelet almost done when Steve sat down at the table.

“You missed your calling.”

“What?”

“You should have been in charge of the NCO mess.”

“Some of them weren’t too bad.”

“And others were named Borgia.”

“But they never killed anybody,” we chorused.

“So, did you win the Lottery or something Steve? Propane isn’t as cheap as it used to be.”

Marion and I both had large insurance policies. I spent a bunch on my armory getting it just where I wanted it and between my retirement and what’s left, should be able to live comfortably.”

“Sorry if I brought up bad memories.”

“Nah, it’s been a while. Say, what are your thoughts on the Japanese shooting down that Chinese fighter?”

“I think its beginning. During the whole Cold War everyone thought it would be US and Russia starting it. And more recently China got dragged into the mix. Russia doesn’t trust China as far as I can spit. With that Crimea thing, Putin wrapped up talks with China about selling gas and building a pipeline. I think that was intended to frighten the European Union into believing he might cut off their gas supply.

“If you’ve been following the Far East, China has been in an expansion mode, increasing their Navy and Air Force. I think they’re slowly increasing their Army too. This whole China Sea argument confirms that. They’re at odds with Taiwan, Brunei, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Japan. You can see how broad their ambitions are.

“On top of the Far East issues, there are the issues in the Middle East arising out of Arab Spring. Arab Spring began in December, 2011 and hasn’t ended. Sometimes I think the patriot fiction writers know more about what’s going on than our own government.”

“Some government! If Hillary gets in, there goes the ballgame. But, if the GOP can put up a halfway decent candidate, they might get the White House back.”

“I don’t disagree with you Steve, really. I think there is a bigger picture to be concerned about than American Politics. I started feeling that way on September 11, 2001. We were sucked into two major conflicts, Afghanistan and Iraq. In my opinion we accom-

plished exactly nothing in either. The Muslims are still fighting the Crusades so far as Europe and the US are involved in their affairs. When we aren't there, they're fighting among each other to get control and create, oh I don't know, a Muslim Empire.

"I was reading an article somewhere, hell, I don't even remember where. China retired that type 92 boomer but they have 5 type 94 Jin class in service with 12 missile tubes; and that's 60 missiles. What if they've managed to develop a MIRV warhead? You could jump from 60 to 180 or 240 in the blink of an eye. The same source says they're developing a type 96 with 24 tubes that US defense officials have stated that it might begin its first sea patrol in 2014.

"I believe that the latter was a misstatement and the Jin class will start sea patrols in 2014, this year. That J-20 I mentioned is a 5th generation aircraft, stealth. Apparently, the third is in test flights. This new leader of China, Xi Jinping, is totally in favor of a strong military and wants all foreigners out of South East Asia's affairs. I'm just afraid the US will get sucked into a conflict between China and its neighbors."

"Something about that doesn't square, Smoke. China has always maintained a 'no first use' policy and demonstrated that by limiting the number of nuclear weapons it possesses. If they're expanding their SSBN fleet as you describe, will they have enough missile warheads?"

"They won't have enough and that means they'll have to build more, doesn't it. I believe that outsiders are either under estimating the number of weapons they have or they're secretly increasing their stockpile."

"That would follow if Xi Jinping wants to increase their military power."

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That week we went from 6,000 gallons of propane to 12,000. Four weeks later, that jumped to 18,000. Four weeks after that, 24,000 and five weeks after that, 30,000 in the new tank. I got the first tank topped off 4 weeks later and opened the valve between the two tanks. I didn't need a big generator, just 100 amps at 240vac continuously. I couldn't get the model I wanted to do that without buying a diesel. The other criterion was a 1,800rpm engine. Cummins Onan could give me the 100a 240vac at 3,600rpm in a propane engine or 100a 240vac at 1,800rpm in a diesel engine. I eventually found what I wanted at generatorsales dot com (Central Maine Diesel). They had a Quiet Run General Motors 30 kW LP/Natural Gas Generator. Engine speed 1,800rpm, output Load Amperage at 240 volts 125 amps continuous.

If something serious happened, say WW III, propane wouldn't be any harder to salvage than diesel and propane didn't need a stabilizer like my diesel and gasoline tanks. Not being a social creature translated into my using very little diesel fuel. That more than doubled when Steve showed up, but the pump had a dispensing meter and we each logged what we pumped. I filled the tank and just charged him for what he logged. Not

that I didn't trust him, but I kept track of my usage separately and always deducted my usage from the fill up to see how closely he was keeping track.

I did a little more research on Xi Jinping and came up with the following:

BEIJING – Driven by ambitions to make China a great power, President Xi Jinping is staking his political authority on a huge task: overhauling the Chinese military, which is still largely organized as it was when a million peasant soldiers mustered under Mao Zedong.

Mr. Xi wants a military that can project power across the Pacific and face regional rivals like Japan in defense of Chinese interests. To get it, he means to strengthen China's naval and air forces, which have been subordinate to the People's Liberation Army's land forces, and to get the military branches to work in close coordination, the way advanced Western militaries do.

China's military budget has grown to be the second largest in the world, behind that of the United States, and the country has acquired sophisticated weapons systems. But Mr. Xi has told his commanders that is not enough.

"There cannot be modernization of national defense and the military without modernization of the military's forms of organization," Mr. Xi told a committee of party leaders studying military reform at its first meeting in March, Xinhua, the official Chinese news agency, reported. "There has to be thoroughgoing reform of leadership and command systems, force structure and policy institutions," he was quoted as saying.

It will not be easy. Reorganizing the People's Liberation Army, or PLA, will pit Mr. Xi's ambitions against the entrenched power of the land forces, with about 1.4 million troops, and he will have to manage the overhaul while ensuring that the military remains a reliable guardian of the Communist Party's hold on political power, experts said.

"Military reform is part of the larger program that Xi Jinping is putting in place to put his imprimatur on the Chinese party-state," said David M. Finkelstein, vice president and director of China studies at CNA Corporation, a research organization in Alexandria, Va., concentrating on security and military affairs.

"'This time, we're serious' – that should be the subtext of this new tranche of reform," he said. "It will be five years before you see the fruits of it. But 10 years from now, you might see a very different PLA."

As it is now, the army is structured around seven powerful regional commands, originally set up to defend the country against invasion from the Soviet Union and to uphold the party's domestic control. A recasting of those military regions is at the heart of Mr. Xi's plans. The Chinese military that emerges is likely to be much more focused on confronting Japan, whose navy is generally considered to have an edge over China's, and on enforcing Beijing's territorial claims in the East and South China Seas.

That will inevitably mean transferring or decommissioning significant numbers of soldiers and bureaucrats, who can be expected to argue against Mr. Xi's plans. Underemployed or unemployed former soldiers are already a persistent source of protests in the country.

"Forces for inertia are making real military reform more difficult," said Andrew Scobell, a political scientist at the RAND Corporation in Washington who studies the Chinese military. "You've got a lot of fiefdoms, and there's the strong, disproportionate influence and power of the ground forces."

Money does not appear to be an issue, Western analysts said. "I'm not sure there would be much cost savings" from the overhaul, said Roy D. Kamphausen, a former military attaché at the United States Embassy in Beijing who is now a senior adviser to the National Bureau of Asian Research in Washington. "There seems to be a comfort level with current spending."

China spends about 2.5 percent of its gross domestic product on its military; the United States spends about 4.5 percent, Mr. Kamphausen said.

The Chinese military was already trying to accomplish a lot by 2020, at which point it hopes to have completed its mechanization and made major progress in spreading the use of information technology, said Dennis J. Blasko, another former American military attaché in Beijing.

"I see the PLA undertaking a much more complex modernization process, with more components than the US military after Vietnam – but without the recent combat experience, Reagan-era defense budgets, and NCO corps the US military had," Mr. Blasko said, referring to noncommissioned officers.

Japan and its alliance with the United States have become prime strategic interests for China, whose commanders have been referring to their country's defeat at Japanese hands in 1895 and using that humiliation as a prod for change.

"Japan's victory was a victory of its institutions," Gen. Liu Yazhou of the Chinese Army's National Defense University said in an interview with the Chinese news media last month. "The defeat of the Qing Empire was a defeat of its institutions."

Mr. Xi appears well positioned to take on the obstacles to the overhaul, analysts said. Unlike his weaker predecessor Hu Jintao, Mr. Xi became chairman of the Central Military Commission at the same time he became party leader. And Phillip C. Saunders, director of the Center for the Study of Chinese Military Affairs at the National Defense University in Washington, said it was clear he had the backing of the six other members of the country's most powerful body, the Politburo Standing Committee.

Mr. Xi's efforts may be helped by the impending trial of Gu Junshan, a general whose charge sheet reads like a list of the army's most flagrant corruption problems. Mr. Kamphausen of the National Bureau of Asian Research said the selling of promotions became so widespread that General Gu's case appeared to be an especially lurid example of widespread graft.

Now, by campaigning against corruption, Mr. Xi has military commanders "so scared, they can't even park their cars in a restaurant parking lot – they send the driver somewhere else," Mr. Saunders said.

Besides the senior leadership group Mr. Xi convened in March to oversee reform, five task forces have been set up to examine specific issues, Mr. Saunders said: on training, force reduction, political indoctrination, rooting out corruption and improving the way the military manages its infrastructure.

But the biggest challenge may be loosening the grip of the ground forces.

"That's the key to everything, because at this point, if you analyze the structure of the PLA, the army dominates," said Nan Li, an expert on the Chinese military who teaches at the United States Naval War College in Newport, RI. "All these services other than the ground force, their officers are marginal in the regional command structure. They are not integrated. They are on the sidelines."

Mr. Li said solving that problem would require creating separate headquarters and shifting personnel and resources to the navy, air force and missile forces, which are better able to project power abroad than the land forces are.

One basic tenet will remain: There are no signs that China's military commanders will challenge the party's control over the army, even if they privately blanch at some of Mr. Xi's demands, analysts said.

"Defense of the party is always Mission No. 1," said Mr. Finkelstein of CNA. "The officers of the PLA are party members who happen to wear uniforms."

BEIJING – Even by the standards of the clampdowns that routinely mark politically sensitive dates in China, the approach this year to June 4, the anniversary of the day in 1989 when soldiers brutally ended student-led protests in Tiananmen Square, has been particularly severe.

The days preceding June 4 often mean house arrest for vocal government critics and an Internet scrubbed free of even coded references to the crackdown that dare not speak its name.

But this year, the 25th anniversary of the bloodshed that convulsed the nation and nearly sundered the Communist Party, censors and security forces have waged an aggres-

sive “stability maintenance” campaign that has sent a chill through the ranks of Chinese legal advocates, liberal intellectuals and foreign journalists.

In recent weeks, a dozen prominent scholars and activists have been arrested or criminally detained, and even seemingly harmless gestures, like posting a selfie in Tiananmen Square while flashing a V for victory, have led to detentions.

The police have been warning Western journalists to stay away from the square in the coming days or “face grave consequences,” according to several reporters summoned to meetings with stone-faced public security officials. Amnesty International has compiled a list of nearly 50 people across the country that it says have been jailed, interrogated or placed under house arrest.

“They say it’s springtime in Beijing, but it feels like winter,” said Hu Jia, an AIDS activist and seasoned dissident who has been forcibly confined to his apartment for the past three months.

The growing list of those swept up by China’s expansive security apparatus includes a group of gay rights advocates gathered at a Beijing hotel, several Buddhists arrested as they were meditating in the central Chinese city of Wuhan and an ex-soldier turned artist who staged in a friend’s studio a performance piece that was inspired by the government’s efforts to impose amnesia on an entire nation.

“The response has been harsher and more intense than we’ve ever seen,” said Maya Wang, a researcher at Human Rights Watch in Hong Kong.

To political analysts and rights advocates, the campaign provides further evidence that President Xi Jinping, 15 months into the job, is determined to stamp out dissent amid an ideological assault against liberal ideas that many view as part of a wide-ranging drive to consolidate power. “Until this latest crackdown I was agnostic about Xi, but recent events suggest he would like to be a Mao-style strongman if he could,” said Perry Link, a China scholar at the University of California, Riverside.

Although the red line of permissible public discourse often shifts with the seasons and the whims of those in power, many longtime China watchers say the changes have caught even the most battle-scarred dissidents off guard.

As evidence, they point to the authorities’ forceful response to a seminar, held at a private home in early May, during which more than a dozen people met to discuss the events of 1989. In the days that followed, the participants, including relatives of those killed during the crackdown, were summoned for questioning by the police.

But unlike a similar, much larger event in 2009, five of the attendees were formally arrested. Among them: Hao Jian, a professor at the Beijing Film Academy; Xu Youyu, a philosophy scholar at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; and Pu Zhiqiang, a charismatic rights lawyer. All face charges of “creating a public disturbance.”

Since then, the police have repeatedly searched Mr. Pu's law office and home, carting away computers, financial documents and a DVD of a documentary about the dissident artist Ai Weiwei, a former client.

In an interview, one of his lawyers, Zhang Sizhi, described the charges as illogical. "How can you create a public disturbance while meeting in a private residence?" he asked.

Mr. Zhang and others say it seems increasingly unlikely Mr. Pu will be released after June 4, the pattern of previous anniversary-related detentions.

In building a case against him, the authorities have rounded up a number of Mr. Pu's friends and associates, among them Vivian Wu, an independent journalist, and Xin Jian, a news assistant with the Japanese newspaper Nikkei. Friends say they are unclear why the authorities detained Ms. Xin, although some thought it might be related to an earlier interview she conducted with Mr. Pu.

On Tuesday, two weeks after her disappearance, Ms. Xin's husband took to social media, posting a family photo and a frantic cry for help. "It's a mess at home," the husband, Wang Haichun, wrote. "Please come back. I can't bear this alone."

The anguish is shared by friends of Liu Wei, a young factory worker from southwest China who was detained on criminal charges on May 17 after returning home to Chongqing from a visit to Beijing. According to a friend, Huang Chengcheng, Mr. Liu's apparent crime was posting online photos of himself in Tiananmen Square, including one in which he flashed a victory sign, a common pose among Chinese tourists that can also be seen as a sly act of subversion.

Gay rights advocates have also been feeling the heat. Over the past few weeks, the authorities have canceled a number of events in Beijing, including a film screening and a panel discussion to mark International Day Against Homophobia. Earlier this month, the police raided a hotel where a group of civil society advocates had gathered for a seminar focused on the obstacles facing gay and AIDS nonprofits.

Yu Fangqiang, one of the event organizers, said the police arrived at 1:30 am, confiscated his cellphone and then used it to text about 30 other would-be participants, telling them the event had been canceled. Mr. Yu and eight others were then bundled off for interrogations that, for several detainees, stretched into the following evening.

Sometimes the authorities' fears of public unrest have led to confounding measures, like the postponement of a restaurant awards ceremony scheduled for Thursday night in the capital.

Other times their efforts were nothing if not creative.

Chen Yongmiao, a political commentator and rights activist in Beijing, said the police gave him the equivalent of \$800 to leave town. “They just don’t want people from the opposition in the political center of Beijing,” Mr. Chen said by phone last week as he traveled through northwest China.

In past years, the noose would tighten in mid-April, coinciding with the anniversary of the death of Hu Yaobang, the reformist Communist Party secretary purged for his “bourgeois” liberal leanings in 1989. It was an outpouring of public mourning after his death on April 15 that coalesced into the demonstrations that swept the nation with demands for justice, democracy and an end to official corruption.

This year, however, many activists say restrictions kicked in months earlier. When they placed him under house arrest in late February, Mr. Hu, the AIDS activist, said the police told him this was an “especially sensitive” year and that they were taking no chances. “The authorities want to create an atmosphere of terror, something they’ve largely succeeded in doing,” he said by phone, listing a number of friends who had been compelled by the police to “go on holiday” and leave Beijing for May.

But Mr. Hu said he thought the campaign was ham-handed and ultimately ineffective. Although party leaders have expunged the episode from Chinese history books and the Internet, leaving a younger generation unfamiliar with the events of June 3-4, Mr. Hu estimated that a million or more people were on the streets of Beijing the night soldiers opened fire on unarmed civilians, killing hundreds, if not more.

“No matter how hard they try,” he said, “they cannot erase this experience from everyone’s memories.”

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WASHINGTON (Reuters) – After more than a decade focused on combating Islamist militancy, Western military planners are once again contemplating potential war between major powers – and how to prevent one happening by accident.

Although the Cold War rivalry with Moscow has never been forgotten, current and former Western officials say Russia’s annexation of Crimea has NATO powers tearing up strategic assumptions and grimly considering both conventional and nuclear fights.

As late as March, most NATO powers – with the exception of eastern members such as the Baltic States long worried by Moscow – had assumed Europe itself faced no imminent military threat.

It is still the case that few believe Russia would attack any NATO state, but, in order to deter, Western officials say they must consider and plan for the contingency.

The threat to US allies in the Pacific from a stronger China has also focused military minds on how to contain the risks there, and ensure any localized conflict does not spill over into global war.

In a major foreign policy speech at the West Point military academy last month, President Barack Obama spoke mostly on counterterrorism and the Afghanistan withdrawal. But while he said the risk from other nations was now much lower than before the Berlin Wall fell, he made clear it still existed.

“Regional aggression that goes unchecked, whether in southern Ukraine or the South China Sea or anywhere else in the world, will ultimately impact our allies and could draw in our military,” he told graduating cadets.

Tensions with Moscow and Beijing have increased faster than almost anyone in government in Washington expected. They are expected to dominate a meeting between Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Normandy for the 70th anniversary of D-Day later this week.

Last weekend’s annual Shangri-La Dialogue strategic conference in Singapore, meanwhile, showcased the growing gulf between Washington and Beijing on issues from regional maritime disputes to cyber security.

In recent weeks, current and former officials say, the Obama administration has been insistently reassuring allies and signaling foes where Washington’s true red lines are.

Washington might not be prepared to act militarily in Ukraine but an attack on a NATO state such as one of the Baltics or a formal Asian ally like Japan, the Philippines or Australia would commit it irrevocably to war. Those treaty obligations are not new, but US officials say it is important to make clear that they are taken extremely seriously.

They hope that will reduce the risk of an accidental war where a state takes action wrongly assuming other powers will not respond.

“It’s not that the leadership in Russia or China is looking for a war - and the United States certainly isn’t,” says Kathleen Hicks, a US undersecretary for defense until last July who now works for the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

“The real worry is miscalculation.”

GREAT WAR

One hundred years after the start of World War One, books on the period have become increasingly popular in Washington, Whitehall and NATO headquarters in Brussels, current and former officials say, and not purely for their historical interest.

In June 1914, the killing of Austria's Archduke Franz Ferdinand by a Serb nationalist triggered actions and alliances that brought war in barely a month.

Now, experts say flashpoints could range from a clash over disputed South China Sea islands or ethnic strife in Russia's former Soviet neighbors to a wrongly attributed cyber-attack.

Even as Washington reassures allies, Moscow and Beijing have asserted their might against Ukraine and Vietnam which lack such formal alliances. The risk, experts say, is that they become overconfident and misjudge.

"The parallels with 1914 can definitely be overstated," said Nikolas Gvosdev, professor of national security studies at the US Naval War College.

"But they do show us that war can start through unintended consequences and an economically interdependent world does not necessarily stop it from happening."

As in 1914, no one really knows what a modern great war would be like.

While much military thinking assumes conflict would remain conventional, nuclear powers have kept their atomic war planning up to date, maintaining target lists for mutually assured destruction, current and former officials say.

Cyber-attacks, some experts say, could be almost as destructive, as could the effects on global trade in an unprecedentedly interconnected world.

Meanwhile, some of the systems supposed to prevent conflict may be starting to weaken.

WEAKENED LINKS

US officials had embarked on a campaign to build formal and informal communications channels with Beijing, mimicking the hotlines and procedures set up with Russia.

Moscow and Washington have used those systems themselves in recent months to notify each other of missile tests and reconnaissance flights over each other's territory.

Links with Russia, however, have weakened this year as NATO states canceled conferences and military exchanges with Moscow in protest at the annexation of Crimea.

Contacts with China have also deteriorated in the last month, particularly since Washington indicted five Chinese officials for cyber espionage, a charge Beijing denies.

A near collision between US and Chinese warships in January, a mock Russian attack on a US destroyer in the Black Sea in April and periodic confrontations between long-range bombers and other aircraft show the risks, experts warn.

Last week on Japan and China accused each other of “dangerous” and “over the top” actions after warplanes came within a few dozen meters.

Any additional challenge to the West, some analysts say, is that both Russia and China know Washington would struggle to handle simultaneous confrontations.

US forces are spread around the world while Moscow’s and Beijing’s, while smaller, are almost exclusively focused on their immediate neighborhood. Since 2008, they have increased military spending 30 and 40 percent respectively, according to London’s International Institute for Strategic Studies.

The 2012 Asia “pivot”, which saw the US Navy in particular moving to increase its Pacific footprint, aimed to make crisis response easier.

In Europe, in contrast, NATO has little developed thinking beyond its post-Crimea strategy of putting small numbers of US troops and jets on the frontline in eastern member states they fear Moscow might target next.

Until Ukraine, European states had viewed their primary military focus as occasional intervention, peacekeeping and counterinsurgency in the Middle East and Africa.

“We are in uncharted territory,” said one senior Western official who spoke on condition of anonymity. “It means ... reconstituting high end fighting skills and properly thought through doctrine for both conventional and nuclear deterrence.”

◦

I forgot to mention it but I liked that Taurus PT1911B. Couldn’t get a new one, they now made the PT1911B-1 with a rail, but I found a very good used one and went to Little Rock and had a new extended, threaded barrel installed (hand fitted). I already had the AWC suppressor so I relegated the M1911A2 to a backup handgun. I noticed at the range when I test fired it that the 200gr +P Gold Dot was louder. I dug out a box of 230gr Gold Dot and it quieted right down. The eight round magazines for the M1911 were stainless and worked in the Taurus so they were loaded with 230gr and the Taurus magazines with 200gr +P.

World War Three – Chapter 5

I thought back to what had happened since I retired that had changed things. Under Dubya, Russia had invaded South Ossetia. Bush and NATO gave it lip service and it went away. In 2014, Russia invaded the Crimea and Obama threatened lasting ramifications and sanctions. It didn't go away. Maybe Putin saw in Obama what many Americans saw in Obama, an ineffective President. If Putin saw that, why couldn't Xi Jinping? Now there was an interesting thought.

We already had a Mutual Defense Pact with Japan; what would be gained by seeking a new one? Perhaps a warning to China to back off? Japan was already seen as having a superior Navy to China's, so why buy more? Another warning? Japan didn't have boomers but the US had 14, enough to go around. I didn't get it. It never occurred to me that Japan was simply afraid of China. It's not the size of the dog in the fight; it's the size of the fight in the dog.

Steve and I settled into a relatively quiet lifestyle. Since these were his home stomping grounds, he was gone more than he was here. He missed coming home some nights and I began to wonder if he found a female companion. When I asked him about it, he replied, 'no, but I shor 'nuf have a lotta cousins'. Steve didn't eat many meals at home either so I wasn't out much food. About every 3 months we'd go shopping at Wal-Mart and it was 'fill the holes on me'. Other than a rare meal together and shooting together, Steve almost didn't exist.

By the way, I swapped my 25 round magazines for his 20 round magazines and chalked it up to 'lesson learned'. He paid me the difference anyway, based on what his had cost. They fed okay but were too long for shooting from a prone position. I glad I got a deal on them. The ones I received were brand spanking new. Think about it, 50 20 round magazines was a full case of Black Hills and a half case of PPU. Maybe 75 pounds of ammo and I'm in my sixties.

[Excuse me Colonel Sir; can I drive to the next war? Command Sergeant Major, you're a leader of men; get out there and lead. Yes sir; by your leave sir. Well, maybe in a movie. I'm not Captain Nathan Brittles who retired and rode off into the sunset only to recalled to active duty as the Chief of US Army Scouts (Lt. Colonel).]

I had continued the practice of buying a package of firewood every year and kept the coal bunker full at about 6 loads total. Diesel, gasoline and propane were topped off going into the fall

There was another nuclear test in the south Indian Ocean and this was delivered by an ICBM, from Japan. The Japanese government declined comment but Space Command had the tracking records. The outgoing Obama was notified but he didn't react. In the November election, the GOP maintained control of the House, took a 1 seat majority in the Senate and won the White House. Everybody's favorite Tea Party member was in the Oval Office. Hint: first name is Rand.

On January 21, 2017 local time, China attacked Japan, conventionally. No nukes were involved but some of those Russian-made 3M-82 Moskit anti-ship cruise missiles (NATO designation: SS-N-22 Sunburn) were fired. And, surprisingly, intercepted; leading to the conclusion they had a conventional warhead. CVN-73 *USS George Washington* made an emergency sortie out of Yokosuka and 4 additional Carrier Strike Groups made ready to sail from the west coast.

People were working 24/7 to get the ships' stores in place, sailors and Naval Aviators [pilots] in place, ships fuelled, etc. It was January 20, 2017 in the US and RP hadn't even moved in yet. Sure put a crimp on the planned balls, though. If you're not familiar with this individual, check him out on Wiki. He believes in an oversea US military presence, e.g., concedes a role for American armed forces abroad, including permanent foreign military bases.

The Japanese don't hate us; that's the people from Okinawa, and they really don't like us. Japan's former foreign minister Katsuya Okada stated that he wanted to review the deployment of US troops in Japan to ease the burden on the people of Okinawa, where many US bases are located, the Associated Press reported October 7, 2009. 5,000 Marines of 9,000 Marines will be deployed at Guam and the rest will be deployed at Hawaii and Australia. Japan will pay \$3.1 billion cash for the moving and for developing joint training ranges on Guam and on Tinian and Pagan in the US-controlled Northern Mariana Islands.

United States military installations on Okinawa:

United States Marine Corps Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler

Camp Foster

Marine Corps Air Station Futenma

Camp Kinser

Camp Courtney

Camp McTureous

Camp Hansen

Camp Schwab

Camp Gonsalves (Jungle Warfare Training Center)

United States Air Force Kadena Air Base

United States Navy Camp Lester (Camp Kuwae)

Camp Shields

Naval Facility White Beach

United States Army Torii Station

Fort Buckner

Naha Military Port

Camp Lester (Camp Kuwae) is located on the flat coastline area facing the East China Sea in Chatan town on Okinawa, Japan. Other than having an important military hospital, there was also a school, soccer field, and various living quarters. Also within the facility, the town office was being built under the agreement of Article 2 paragraph 4(a) of the Status of Force Agreement (SOFA), which allows joint use of the area. The Marine Corps' Camp Lester was also adjacent to elements of the Army Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricant (POL) Depot Kuwae, also located in the area.

The United States and Japan released the Final Report of the Special Action Committee on Okinawa on 2 December 1996. The report made 27 recommendations to reduce the impact of the US military presence on the Okinawan people. This included the return of most of Camp Lester, covering approximately 99 hectares (245 acres), with the intention to finish the process by the end of March 2008. The process would require the Naval Hospital to be relocated to Camp Foster (Camp Zukeran) and remaining facilities to be relocated to Camp Foster or other facilities and areas in Okinawa. The recommendations included the consolidation of US housing areas in Camp Lester and Camp Foster and return portions of land in housing areas there with the intention to finish the process by the end of March 2008. Approximately 83 hectares (206 acres) at Camp Foster and 35 hectares (85 acres) at Camp Lester were to be returned through housing consolidation.

On 5 April 2013, the US Department of Defense released a Consolidation Plan for Facilities and Areas in Okinawa. The realignment described in the plan, including consolidation, of US forces within Okinawa was a significant effort by the US and Japanese Governments, which recognized the importance of enhancing Japanese and US public support for the security alliance, which contributed to a sustainable presence of US forces at facilities and areas in Japan as stated in "US-Japan Alliance: Transformation and Realignment for the Future," a document of the Security Consultative Committee (SCC), dated 29 October 2005. When implemented, the realignment would ensure a life-of-the-Alliance presence for US forces in Japan as stated in "United States-Japan Roadmap for Realignment Implementation," also known as the Realignment Roadmap, another SCC document, dated 1 May 2006. The realignment would also maintain deterrence and mitigate the impact of US forces on local communities. In order to realize the realignment, the US and Japanese Governments developed and would implement the consolidation plan.

In a SCC Joint Statement on 27 April 2012, the US and Japanese Governments confirmed that the total or partial return of the 6 facilities and areas designated in the Realignment Roadmap remained unchanged and that the land of aforementioned facilities and areas utilized by US forces were eligible for return under the Consolidation Plan in 3 categories: 1) Areas eligible for immediate return upon completion of necessary procedures; 2) Areas eligible for return once the replacement facilities in Okinawa were provided; and, 3) Areas eligible for return as US Marine Corps forces relocate from Okinawa to locations outside of Japan. Camp Lester and a portion of the Army POL Depot Kuwae were included in the second category.

The area designated as Camp Lester to be included in the land return covered approximately 68 hectares. To prepare for the land return, the Naval Hospital and middle school would have to be relocated to Camp Foster (Camp Zukeran) and family housing (a total of 375 units) would have to be relocated to Camp Foster under the Okinawa Housing Consolidation (OHC). The OHC plan under Special Action Committee on Okinawa (SACO) was reevaluated and based on the post-Defense Posture Review Initiatives (DPRI) family housing requirement on Okinawa. Approximately 910 family housing units, including the replacement of units to be demolished at the construction areas, would be constructed in addition to the 56 units that had already been agreed to. It was said that Camp Lester could be returned upon completion of conditions and necessary procedures for return in JFY2025 or later. The Army POL Depot Kuwae Tank Farm No. 1, a part of the Army POL Depot Kuwae covering approximately 16 hectares, was also identified for return. To prepare for the land return facilities and functions supporting operations at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma would be relocated to Camp Schwab, facilities and functions supporting operations at Kadena Air Base would be relocated to Army POL Depot Chimu-wan Tank Farm No. 2, and administrative building and vehicle fuel points would be relocated to Army POL Depot Kuwae Tank Farm No. 2. It was said that Army POL Depot Kuwae Tank Farm No. 1 could be returned upon completion of conditions and necessary procedures for return in JFY2022 or later.

To put a point on this discussion of Okinawa, the dislike started with the WW II invasion and continued because the US set up shop mostly on Okinawa. During the War in Vietnam, the US based up to 1,000 nuclear weapons on Okinawa. And, how many times have we heard of drunken Marines raping Okinawan women? It will only end when we leave Okinawa.

But, things don't always work out as planned. The *USS Ford* was supposed to replace the *USS Enterprise* in 2016, the *USS Kennedy* was supposed to replace the *USS Nimitz* in 2020 and the *USS Enterprise* was supposed to replace the *Eisenhower* in 2025. The *Enterprise* was retired in 2013. The *Ford* was to enter sea trials in 2015 and replace *Enterprise* in 2016. Hey Pentagon, we have a hole here!

It seems like *Ford* construction had been accelerated and would enter sea trials in 2014 and replace *Enterprise* only 3 years late. *Kennedy* had been laid down in 2013 immediately after *Ford* had been launched and *Enterprise* would be laid in 2016 as soon as *Kennedy* was launched. Building the new *Ford* class had been a challenge, but they learned and would use the lessons to speed the construction of the Ford-class carriers.

In a speech on 6 April 2009, then Secretary of Defense Robert Gates announced that the program would shift to a five-year building program so as to place it on a "more fiscally sustainable path". Such a measure would result in ten carriers after 2040. There was a movement by the USS America Carrier Veterans' Association to have CVN-78 named after America rather than after President Ford. Eventually, the amphibious assault ship LHA-6 was named *America*.

On 27 May 2011, the Department of Defense announced the name of CVN-79 would be *USS John F. Kennedy*. On 1 December 2012, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced that CVN-80 would be named *USS Enterprise*. The information was delivered during a prerecorded speech as part of the deactivation ceremony for the previous *USS Enterprise* (CVN-65). The future *USS Enterprise* (CVN-80) will be the ninth US Navy ship to bear this name.

Where are the carriers? The famous question can be answered by: in overhaul, in port, underway towards the Far East with one carrier in reserve in the Arabian Sea. We're short carriers because of Sequestration, remember? We can finish up CVN-78's sea trails and move it to the Pacific, but that will take time.

How fast can we reactivate the *Ticonderoga* class? Five have been stricken and are available as museum ships and 4 are laid up for repairs. Estimated time to be sea worthy for all four is at least 6 months. We can shift more to the Far East if necessary.

Don't you just love the new job Mr. President? George had from 20Jan01 to 11Sep01 (234 days) to get his feet wet. And to give Obama a little credit, the country was already in a mess when he got elected. We got change alright, only hours after he was out of office. I wonder if they'll call this one World War Three. If the US keeps its nose out and Australia doesn't get sucked in and by logic the United Kingdom and by further logic NATO, maybe it could remain regional and not be a world war. Don't forget Murphy!

A world war is a war affecting most of the world's most powerful and populous countries. World wars span multiple countries on multiple continents, with battles fought in multiple theaters. However, it is also sometimes applied to earlier wars, the Cold War, or to a hypothetical future war.

The term "World War" was coined speculatively in the early 20th century, some years before the First World War broke out, probably as a literal translation of the German word *Weltkrieg*. German writer August Wilhelm Otto Niemann had used the word in the title of his anti-British novel *Der Weltkrieg: Deutsche Träume* ("The World War: German Dreams") as early as 1904, published in English as *The coming conquest of England*. The Oxford English Dictionary cites the first known usage in the English language as being in April 1909, in the pages of the *Westminster Gazette*.

It was recognized that the complex system of opposing alliances—the German Empire, Austria–Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire vs. the French Third Republic, the Russian Empire, and the British Empire was likely to lead to a worldwide conflict in the event of war breaking out. The fact that the powers involved had large overseas empires virtually guaranteed that a war would be worldwide, as the colonies' resources would be a crucial strategic factor. The same strategic considerations also ensured that the combatants would strike at each other's colonies, thus spreading the fighting far more widely than in the pre-colonial era.

Other languages have also adopted the “World War” terminology. For instance, in French, the two World Wars are the Guerres mondiales; in German, the Erste und Zweite Weltkrieg (World War I was only known or commonly recognized in public as der Weltkrieg in Germany when it was over, while prior to the war that word had been used in the more abstract meaning of “a global conflict”); in Italian, the Guerra Mondiale; in Spanish, the Guerra Mundial; in Russian, the мировая война (mirovaya voyna); and so on.

Speculative fiction authors were noting the concept of a Second World War at least as early as 1919 and 1920, when Milo Hastings wrote his dystopian novel *City of Endless Night*. In English, the term “First World War” was used in the book *The First World War: A Photographic History*, edited by playwright and war veteran Laurence Stallings and published in 1933. The term “World War I” was invented by Time magazine in its issue of June 12, 1939. In that same issue, the term “World War II” was first used speculatively to describe the upcoming war. The first use for the actual war came in its issue of September 11, 1939; one week earlier, the Danish newspaper Kristeligt Dagblad used the term on its front page, saying “The second World War broke out yesterday at 11 am.”

I checked but Japan Today didn’t have headline screaming World War Three. But, to be prudent, I checked the staples on hand, made a list and headed to Wal-Mart. When I finished there, I checked the gun store for ammo and headed home. After everything was rotated and put up, I took the roast out of the crock pot and served dinner, to myself.

“Didya hear?”

“Did I hear what Steve?”

“China invaded Japan.”

“China didn’t invade Japan Steve. China attacked Japan, conventionally. No nukes were involved but some of those Russian-made SS-N-22 Sunburn anti-ship cruise missiles were fired against Japanese ships. They were, surprisingly, intercepted; leading to the conclusion they had a conventional warhead. CVN-73 *USS George Washington* made an emergency sortie out of Yokosuka and 4 Carrier Strike Groups are making ready to sail from the west coast.”

“World War Three, I tell you.”

“Maybe. Want some dinner?”

“I ate.”

“Yeah, at the tavern, wee doggie,” I thought. Did Steve have a concealed problem, e.g., was he a drunk? Well gunpowder and alcohol don’t mix, if you get my drift, and Stevie boy is going to have to make a choice. Yeah, we kicked back and had a few when we got a little R&R, but you never knew when your friendly neighborhood Muslim was going to attack your camp so you stayed sober when it counted. Maybe you can still operate your M9 or M4 when you’re drunk, but can you hit anything?

He wouldn’t be the first NCO to lose his wife after 31 years, serve out his last enlistment and retire to alcoholism. It didn’t happen often, but it did happen. On the other hand, don’t judge a book by its cover. Maybe he was having a couple of beers with a cousin and had a bit too much in him when he heard the news. It wasn’t like the TV was showing mushroom clouds, yet. When the TV showed mushroom clouds, good ole’ Barney Fife got a six-pack to go, hit the ATM and stopped by the Cleppers Grocery to load up on beer and other items. But, he forgot the can opener.

◦

Truth be told, I’ve read Jerry’s stories more times than I’ve read TOM’s. Eleven years of prepping was going to pay off big if this set to in the Far East cranks up; assuming that our brand new President got us involved. How could he not get us involved, our treaty was with Japan, not China?

Anticipating that this wouldn’t happen until 2015 or 2016, I’d been faithfully rotating the foods from Emergency Essentials, Nitro-Pak and Rainy Day Foods. I think they changed their name so they could charge more. Anything in a Mylar bag in a pail would be good until the second coming but I did sometimes buy another bag of hot chocolate, etc. and bag it with an oxygen absorber etc. etc. I did it the same way every time so there is no need to repeat myself.

Got milk? Yep, powdered whole milk in bags in cans stacked several deep. My excuse was that I had all the Hershey’s Cocoa and my excuse for the Hershey’s Cocoa was I had all that powdered whole milk. Neither of which recognized that I had all that hot chocolate from Walton’s. I had Bigelow Tea too; mostly Darjeeling with a mix of Earl Grey, English Breakfast, English Teatime, (plain) Green, Jasmine (green) tea, Chamomile, and for the visitor, a case of Lipton orange pekoe and pekoe cut black tea. The first tea many of us drank.

The next morning when Steve woke up, his first question was did he dream that World War Three had started or did it actually happen. I explained that the Chinese had fired on Japanese destroyers but the Sunburn missiles had been intercepted and no nuclear weapons had been used, yet. He said he couldn’t understand why he thought that and I explained about him showing mostly tanked to the gills. He replied that he’d run into a friend from high school and they probably did get in their cups. Was I going to eat the remainder of the eggs or were they for him?

"I believe that after you shower and shave, we can sit down and discuss this more rationally."

"I'm down to one change of clothes."

"After breakfast, strip off and start the first load. Then while it's washing, you can shower and shave. After you get dressed in that last clean outfit, you can put the first load in the dryer and start the second load. I assume you do outerwear, permanent press and whites as separate loads, right?"

"I haven't been."

"Save the whites for last, add Clorox and use the presoak function on the washer. The jeans and uniforms are just jeans and uniforms so you don't need to bleach them."

"My uniforms are all permanent press."

"Then wash them with the shirts you wear with your jeans. The shirts are lighter weight fabric so pull them from the dryer before the uniforms."

"I guess I'm kind of messed up."

"At little. Since you realize that, we can both get back into fighting trim for our last big battle."

"Are you implying we'll be invaded?"

"Not at all. But what will it be like if this does turn into World War Three and we're forced to rely on our training and instincts and available supplies?"

"Wait, how about those long term supplies?"

"I've kept them rotated as much as possible. The STS are current as are the LTS; the canned goods anyway have been rotated. I doubt there is anything that's more than 6 years old."

"Ammo?"

"I'm fine, what about you?"

"I'll have to check but I might need to fill a few holes."

"You best get on that because I suspect ammo is going to be harder to get than it was during the early Obama years."

Steve cleaned up good and even cleaned his combat boots. We sat down and went through our molly gear, interceptor armor and full combat load outs. I don't know who he called but he brought his ammo stocks up to the same level I had. I wasn't sure we had enough and when checking for the military surplus and ended up with several cases of PPU .308 match BTHP.

We each had Advanced Combat Helmets with AN/PVS-14 monocular night vision devices and the rifle night vision devices. Body armor was the Improved Outer Tactical Vest with ESAPI, ESBI and the groin protector. Two aging Army Sergeants getting ready for a war that could happen but hadn't yet, equipped with weapons of a previous generation was a sad commentary on life during the 2nd decade of the 21st century. [That's a paraphrase of a comment about Cary Grant and Randolph Scott, two aging queens...]

"Okay, we're ready; now what?"

"Now we wait for the party to begin. How about we hang up the hardware and head to town for lunch?"

"Dressed like this? Are you nuts?"

"Maybe. But, it sure will be an attention getter."

"There isn't a military post anywhere around here."

"Exactly. It sure will get the locals thinking about the news."

"You heard anything new?"

"Well, China tried to attack an Atago-class destroyer of the Japanese Navy, unaware that it was outfitted with Japanese type 90 cruise missiles. Anyway, they're high subsonic. Scratch one Chinese destroyer. Japan has been replacing the RGM-84 Harpoon anti-ship missiles with the type 90s."

"All right; that's showing them."

"Back when this all started, Japan only had 2 of Atago-class. As I recall, they had 6 more under construction together with 4 *Kongō* class under consideration. The latter is *Burke Flight I* and the former *Burke Flight IIa*. But for all I know, they could have just built 10 additional *Atago-class* (they did). They would have a combined force of 16 *Burke-class* destroyers."

"The more things change, the more they stay the same."

"But, don't you dare starch those ACUs. We don't starch the MultiCams, right?"

“Soldier, did you sleep in that uniform? No starch?”

“They only issued those for Afghanistan and got into some kind of fight with Crye Precision over the price. Hell, I heard they even tried to buy up Crye Precision just to own the pattern. Offered twenty-five million and the guy told them to kiss his butt.”

“Steve, we’re not active duty, so wear the MultiCams and screw ‘em if they can’t take a joke.”

“A walk on the wild side?”

“I still think it sure will be an attention getter.”

We piled in my pickup and headed to town, dressed in our MultiCams. When we stopped for lunch, every head in the place turned. Nice lunch of cheeseburger, fries and a Coke. Next we went by the gun store.

“Got any more 5.56 or 7.62?”

“Did the Army run out?”

“Wouldn’t know. Got a case of Speer Gold Dot .45 ACP in 230gr?”

“Sorry, only 7 boxes.”

“I’ll take them. If you order in more, I’ll check back.”

“You two together?”

“Yes, why?”

“You both have the same firearms and buy the same ammunition.”

“By the time you’ve made E-8 and E-9, you have pretty good idea what works and what doesn’t.”

With that out of the way and lunch partly settled, I said “Buy you a beer?”

“Only one.”

So, we pull into this private club went and inside. We each got a bottle each of PBR. In walks this guy that had been in the café and walks up to us.

“Don’t you two know better than wear the uniform in a tavern?”

“What’s it to you?”

“I’m home on leave and noticed you two in the café. What are you doing off post in utilities?”

“What post? You sound like maybe a Lieutenant.”

“First Lieutenant.”

“Well mister no name Lieutenant, MultiCam isn’t sold only to the military. In fact, we have it on good authority that Crye and the DOD aren’t getting on so well these days.”

“So are you military or not?”

“Yes and no. We both have over 30 in and are retired. Hell, Lieutenant, there isn’t even a commissary within driving distance. Joint us for a beer? We just stopped for one. I’d kind of like to get your opinion on what’s going on in the Far East.”

“Sure, thanks, Bud Light.”

You got to know when to hold ‘em, know when to fold ‘em,
Know when to walk away, know when to run.
You never count your money when you’re sittin’ at the table,
There’ll be time enough for countin’ when the dealin’s done.

The gambler then mentions that the “secret to survivin’ is knowing what to throw away, and knowing what to keep” and that “the best you can hope for is to die in your sleep”. At this point, the gambler puts out the cigarette and goes to sleep.

At the end of the song we are told that “somewhere in the darkness, the gambler, he broke even”, and that the narrator finds “an ace that I could keep”, in his final words.

Bud Light?

The Lieutenant, never got his name, had been on the road coming home for leave and only knew what he heard on the radio and saw on the TV at the motel. He did make one profound statement, “I sure hope this new administration doesn’t rush in, ‘Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead’ [Farragut – Mobile Bay].

What’s that TOM’s quote? *Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.*

“I don’t know about that LT, from what I’ve learned, the *Washington* made an emergency sortie out of Yokosuka, 4 carriers were getting ready to make sail from the mainland. We’re short on carriers until the Ford completes sea trials. As you may be aware, *Ford* was to replace *Enterprise*, *Kennedy* was to replace *Nimitz* and *Enterprise* was to replace *Eisenhower*.”

“Really?”

“Actually sir, you can go to Wikipedia for as long as the Internet is up and read about it by searching for Ford-class carrier.”

“Why wouldn’t the Internet be up?”

“I don’t know, CME or some other form of EMP.”

World War Three – Chapter 6

We finished up our PBRs and headed back home. On the way, I explained to Steve the results of my range tests with the Speer .45 ACP ammo. He said that only made sense and he had more of the 230gr Gold Dot than the 200gr +P Gold Dot. If it was the same price, maybe we could swap some out and have 50-50. I'd started crock pot chili before we left that morning and it was starting to smell good. I decided to stir it up and let it cook for a while longer on high and switch to low about an hour before supper. It still had a while to go.

I made coffee and sat down with a cup just to think. Most of us thought that if there was ever a World War Three, it would start with either some incident like on *The Day After* or being awakened in the middle of the night by our NWS EAS SAME radio with an EAN message. Most of us never considered that it would start as a spat between two neighboring countries arguing over which of the two was in control of some damned island or islands. Some of us could remember the Taiwan Straits crises, but most didn't but should. The first was 1954-55, the second was 1958 and the third was 1995-96. Clinton dispatched Battle Groups based on CV-62 *USS Independence* and CVN-68 *USS Nimitz*.

Never heard of it? It really wasn't a big deal; just the PRC posturing against Taiwan as they frequently do. Ten years later, Taiwan had a pro-China government in charge, Ma Ying-jeou. The more things change...

If you want a big deal, it wasn't Paula Jones or Monica; it was Clinton's refusal to take bin Laden into custody when he had the chance. Unfortunately that chance came and went before 9/11. See what I mean about a big deal... if Clinton had taken bin Laden, 9/11 might not have happened and we wouldn't have fought wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. But you know hindsight is 20/20. By the time Dubya took office, the terrorists had pretty much finished up their training needed to hijack the 4 jets.

I just had the fidgets, so I turned on the TV. We're UTC -6 and Tokyo is UTC +9 or 15 hours ahead of us. It was January 2017 so no daylight saving time to confuse the issue. Two thirty in the afternoon in Mountain Home Arkansas translated to $1430+1500=2930-2400=0530$ in Japan. That is one of the few good reasons for military time and UTC... figuring the times for places around the world; it's not algebra, its arithmetic.

Dawn is a little after oh-dark-thirty, but you have the light to see what you're doing, sorta. In this case, one of China's Type 095 class (?) SSNs was sneaking around with a belly full of torpedoes looking for a Japanese destroyer. The problem with that is that the US built the Japanese destroyers and was in the process of building more. Anyway, one Burke-class looks similar to another Burke-class and Japan did have Flight I and Flight IIa DDGs. It's awfully hard to tell which flag the ship has flapping in the wind, too. Not that ours look alike, but... the fire control computer had the solution... "Fire 1, fire 2."

“Conn, CIC, I have two incoming torpedoes very close in.”

“CIC, Conn, bearing? All ahead Flank.”

“All ahead Flank, aye.”

The remainder of the conversation was drowned out by the sounds of the explosions as both torpedoes struck near amidships. As the four turbine engines spooled down in the flooding water, the Commander called for a damage report.

“Conn, damage control report. Sir we were at material condition zebra so the damage is confined. However, we’re dead in the water with all 4 turbines down. We do not need to abandon ship at this time and we’re getting the fires under control.”

“Conn, aye.”

So much for a “combination of... an advanced anti-submarine warfare system, land attack cruise missiles, ship-to-ship missiles, and advanced anti-aircraft missiles.” The flag was now more recognizable; it had 13 stripes and 50 stars. China had 2 Original Kilo and 10 Improved Kilo-class submarines, and 5 of the type 91 Han class SSNs, 5 type 093 Shang-class subs with 3 more planned plus 2 of the type 095 out of 12 planned.

A DDG can go from all ahead standard to all ahead flank, quickly, but not that quickly. It’s sort of like being a deer being caught in the headlights of a car coming along at 70mph. The deer doesn’t have time to react and the driver can’t avoid the deer. That sub had to be pretty close in if the torpedoes had that short of run.

By this time, other members of the Carrier Strike Group Five centered on CVN-73 *USS George Washington* were aware that *USS McCampbell*, DDG-85, had taken 2 torpedoes and had a slight list to starboard. This particular Strike Group had 2 Cruisers, *USS Antietam CG-54* and *USS Shiloh CG-67*, 6 other DDGs, *USS Curtis Wilbur DDG-54*, *USS John S. McCain DDG-56*, *USS Fitzgerald DDG-62*, *USS Stethem DDG-63*, *USS Lassen DDG-82* and *USS Mustin DDG-89*, but no Frigates. The US had no fighting ships in port at Yokosuka.

CVN-73 was due for overhaul/refueling in 2015 and because of Congress, the overhaul/refueling had occurred and *USS Washington* had returned to Yokosuka to relieve CVN-76 *USS Ronald Reagan*. So, the new ship, CVN-76 was in San Diego when things happened. But they were loading stores as was CVN-70 *USS Carl Vinson* as was CVN-74 *USS John C. Stennis* up north. The *Nimitz* was home ported on west coast and the *Eisenhower* was home ported on the east coast. Specifically, *Nimitz* was in San Diego, but can they load stores on 3 carriers simultaneously?

Back to that first question, ‘where are the carriers’? Well you see Mr. President the *Enterprise* was retired in 2012. The *Ford* is finishing up sea trials but it will take a while for it to get there, it has to go around Cape Horn.

Back in the US, breaking news came at about 3:30pm that a US ship had been hit by 2 torpedoes and Washington had been nuked. More news would follow about the disposition of the ship and the crew and Washington. Is another US Navy Commander going to lose his command because of something beyond his control? TOM talked about Rockwell Torrey in the movie *In Harm's Way*. Torrey lost his command because he wasn't zig-zagging. But he was sent to intercept the Japanese Fleet that just bombed Pearl Harbor and concluded he was expendable. The movie was generally panned by critics.

Seven DDGs with 2 CGs and one CVN? They were getting them out of port. Additionally, with US down to only 10 CVNs, not counting the Ford, every effort had to be taken to protect the remaining carrier assets. The *USS Stark* had a big old hole blown into it by 2 Exocet missiles and it survived. The *USS Cole* had a big old hole blown in it by explosives in a boat and it survived. And the *USS McCampbell* had couple big holes in it and it hasn't sunk, yet... Another reason for bringing up the movie was that Torrey took 2 torpedoes and old Swayback survived. [I get the idea that TOM is a John Wayne fan.]

But, the Captain of the *USS Stark*, a Frigate, was recommended for courts martial and eventually received an Article 15. That one was everyone's fault and they passed the blame around. The *USS Cole* is a Flight 1 Burke-class. The JAG concluded that "the commanding officer acted reasonably in adjusting his force protection posture based on his assessment of the situation that presented itself" when *USS Cole* arrived in Aden to refuel. The JAG also concluded that "the commanding officer of *USS Cole* did not have the specific intelligence, focused training, appropriate equipment or on-scene security support to effectively prevent or deter such a determined, preplanned assault on his ship" and recommended significant changes in Navy procedures. In spite of this finding, the Commander was subsequently denied promotion and retired at the same rank of Commander in 2007. And I thought the only arrogant SOBs in the Navy were the Naval Aviators [pilots].

... USS McCampbell, DDG-85, was struck by two torpedoes amidships flooding the engine compartment. The Guided Missile Destroyer was sailing at material condition Zebra in accordance with Strike Group Commanding Officer's orders.

Zebra provides the greatest degree of subdivision and tightness to the ship. It is set immediately and automatically when general quarters is sounded. It is also set when entering or leaving port during wartime, to localize damage and control fire and flooding, or at any time the Commanding Officer deems it necessary.

The entire engine room crew was killed in the attack and several sailors in adjoining compartments were injured. Injuries ranged from minor to serious. The injured crew members were transferred to the CVN-73 USS George Washington for medical treatment with some being transferred to US military hospitals on Okinawa.

We'll be back after...

“Where did you disappear to?”

“Smoke, I was just so tired and the PBR relaxed me just enough I slept the afternoon away. What’s up?”

“DDG 85 was torpedoed in waters off Japan a few hours ago.”

“Our ship?”

“Our ship, DDG 85 *USS McCampbell*, took two in the engine room and apparently went dead in the water. He didn’t say anything about it sinking but he did mention material condition Zebra.”

“Zebra is when they’re sailing with everything locked down than can be locked down. Depending upon the extent of damage, it greatly reduces the chances of sinking.”

“They were at Zebra but people outside the engine compartment were injured.”

“The MK 48 ADCAP we use has 650 pounds of high explosive plus any unexpended fuel.”

“And I read that some Chinese fishermen recovered an Mk 48 torpedo and the Chinese reverse engineered it. What size are the torpedoes on an Improved Kilo-class?”

“Look it up.”

“Hmm, 533mm and an MK 48 is 533mm. So if the torpedo tube was long enough, you could shoot an Mk 48 from an Improved Kilo-class. China has a dozen Kilo-class submarines and some Han-class SSNs. I don’t remember the designator for their Mk 48 copycat but 2 of those could blow a big hole or break the back of a ship if exploded below the keel.”

“Well, don’t tell the Chinese.”

“Tell them what?”

“That they blew it by not sinking that DDG. Let’s eat.”

Some people’s children!

We needed more information about the strike on Washington to determine if World War Three had started.

On an entirely new subject, Russia has launched additional Borei-class submarines. After the first 3 Borei I class, 2 Borei II class with 20 tubes were launched and two more were under construction and reportedly nearing completion. They originally only

planned on building 8. Five down and three to go but nearing completion? Mirv'd, 6 warheads per. $3 \times 16 \times 6 = 288$. $2 \times 20 \times 6 = 240$. $288 + 240 = 528$ which is too damned many. Nearing completion is Russia for *Houston, we had a problem*. Go with 5, just to avoid overstating situation.

About this time, a sole Russian Borei-class submarine launches a Bulava with only 4 warheads. Ohio-class is limited to 4 warheads per missile. It sort of makes sense, 24 missiles per boat, 4 warheads per missile equals 96. Borei-class has 16 missiles per boat, 6 warheads per missile equals 96. The Chinese detected a SLBM about the same time Space Command did.

"Sir I have a launch."

"Location?"

"Northern Pacific."

"How many?"

"One."

"Target?"

"Beijing."

"Standby. This is Space Command at Anderson, did you authorize any launches. Yes sir, a single launch from the Northern Pacific targeted on Beijing. You didn't? Somebody better wake Him up."

"Sir, I have another launch."

"Location?"

"Mid-Atlantic."

"How many?"

"One."

"Target Washington?"

"Affirmative."

"I'm back. Tell him to get dressed and head for the nearest bunker, you have incoming about 15 or less out."

“What’s that damn noise?”

“That’s my NWS EAS SAME radio and it says... EAN (Emergency Action Notification). I hope you left your clean clothes in the shelter. Otherwise grab them and your guns and head for the shelter.”

“I left them down there.”

“Grab your firearms and move them to the shelter. I’m taking mine down and coming back up for the food in the refrigerator. Well maybe not, we have plenty of propane. I have most of my stuff in the shelter just because.”

“Calm down!”

“Move your stuff now Steve and I’ll be perfectly calm.”

“I’d sure hate to see you when you’re excited. Ok, I’m moving.”

“Throw your stuff on your bed and grab that laundry basket. I think we have time to empty the ‘frig.”

“What about the stuff in the pantry?”

“Leave it; it’s only a couple weeks’ worth of food and it’s all staples.”

“Okay, now let’s get the door closed.”

“No lock?”

“Just wait. Did you close the floor opening to the shelter? Never mind, I closed it. You know this door probably weighs half a ton.”

“How were you going to close it by yourself?”

“See that eyebolt?”

“Yeah, so?”

“See that come along?”

“Ah so. Watch your fingers!”

“Don’t yell at me; this is the first time I’ve ever been through World War Three.”

“Did you remember the chili?”

“Yes I did, but there isn’t much beer down here.”

“Beer doesn’t keep; what else you got?”

“A headache.”

“Now what are you doing?”

“I’m connecting the area monitors to the remote sensing heads. Then, I’m going to fire up my desktop and plug the USB cables from the monitors to the USB ports on my computer. I already have a spreadsheet set up that record the date, time and the 3 meter readings in 15 minute intervals.”

“What are you monitoring?”

“Radiation.”

“Why 15 minute intervals?”

“Close counts in government work. The spreadsheet has 1 million rows, enough for 10416 $\frac{2}{3}$ days or 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ + years. That’s over more than the food we have.”

“We’re not spending the remainder of our lives down here are we?”

“Not hardly. Look, we got no announcement. Typically, one would expect an announcement from someone in the government. The only reason we didn’t might be the fact that the launch was very close to the US, say a sub launched ballistic missile. That clouds the water because we developed them first and all five major nuclear powers have SSBNs. It could be six if India has them. So, we sit and wait for a while and see what happens. We safe for the moment Steve and time is on our side.”

“Ok if I heat that chili back up?”

“For breakfast? Well, sure if you want to. I never really thought we’d be bringing in World War Three with chili, biscuits and a beer.”

So far the Russians haven’t uttered a peep regarding the problems in the Far East. Apparently they’re busy building the pipeline to China so they can sell their gas to the Chinese instead Europe. The White House Briefings have less information than they did when Gibbs was Press Secretary. And you know when Gibbs replacement, Jay Carney quit, Obama had problems finding anyone who wanted the job, but Josh Earnest agreed. Oh well. A Press Secretary is the President’s official Liar. Maybe that’s too harsh. How about sayer of many meaningless words. Yeah, works for me.

You do know that it takes several days to move a Carrier Strike Group from San Diego or Bremerton to the Far East, don’t you? It’s not magic where you snap your fingers and

they disappear off the west coast and reappear in the East China Sea. You're not fighting in the Sea of Japan, that's between Japan and the Koreas. Figure an average speed of 20 knots, 24/7. That's 480 nautical miles per day or 552 statute miles a day. I looked it up. The distance from Bremerton, Washington to Taipei, Taiwan is 5,251 Nautical miles and the distance from San Diego, California to Taipei, Taiwan is 5,986 Nautical miles. $5,251 \div 480 = 10.94$ days and $5,986 \div 480 = 12.47$ days.

Assuming it takes 4 days to set sail, the 2 carrier strike groups from the north will take ~15 days and the 2 from the south will take ~16.5 days to all be in position to support Carrier Strike Group Five which is built around CVN-73 USS George Washington.

Let's go back to the scene as it were. Four DDGs immediately set about searching for the submarine. But maybe the Chinese Commander/Captain put the pedal to the metal and is making 20 knots on a course towards Korea. He had a bit of an advantage and by the time the Yankees get their stuff together; he'll already be 10 NM northeast of the attempted sinking. The other 2 DDGs and 2 CG are hovering around the McCampbell like Mother hens with the DDGs circling at 20 knots and the CGs making 5 knots. All of the DDGs and CGs are equipped with ASROC launchers plus active and passive SONAR, so maybe the Chinese Commander/Captain is creeping away at 3 knots which puts him a whole lot closer. The finally tally was one DDG severely damaged, one Han class sunk.

World War Three – Chapter 7

Most Americans didn't know when they woke the following morning that World War Three began the night before. Those that paid attention to such matters knew. But that was about all they knew. They sure got an earful the next morning when they put on *Good Morning America* or one of the early morning news shows.

Two missiles had been launched, one at Beijing and one at Washington, DC by unknown party or parties. Each missile had 4 warheads of undetermined size and the targets lay in ruins. The power was still up in most of the US suggesting that a High Altitude Electromagnetic Pulse (HEMP) wasn't involved. On the other hand, it was worse than 9/11/01 and a whole lot of people were late for work or didn't show up at all. The further west one went across the US, the poorer the level of work attendance; mostly because people were frightened to their very core.

Every time a newscaster used the term possible World War Three, the more frightened they became. Food riots broke out when people tried to get prepared in a hurry. In a way, it was like watching the Watts Riots (1965) or the Rodney King Riots (1992) or the hundreds of Riots that broke out when Dr. Martin Luther King was killed. It didn't matter if they could pay or not, they loaded those grocery baskets to or beyond capacity and didn't stop at the checkout counters. It wasn't ethnic; everyone, red, yellow, black and white of every ethnicity was involved. And, the looting didn't stop with food; got to have a big screen to follow the war don't you know.

The initial problems arose because of the typical 3 days, just in time, inventory practices employed by nearly every grocery chain in the country. Furthermore, it wasn't limited to the United States. Canada was the first to join and Europeans soon followed when they shopped for the evening meal and made it all the evening meals they could get. All because 2 nuclear tipped missiles had been launched against China and the US. That even included many people that held both countries in low esteem.

Students of history understood what the phenomenon was, it happened every time someone fired one of those shots heard around the world. Concord, Fort Sumter in the US, Sarajevo, the Second Italo–Abyssinian War, the Spanish Civil War, the Second Sino-Japanese War, Germany annexing Austria, Germany and Italy forcing Czechoslovakia to cede additional territory to Hungary and Poland, the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact, Germany invading Poland, Denmark, Sweden, Belgium, France, Russia and Pearl Harbor.

The next go around was North Korea invading South Korea followed by the US providing advisors to the South Vietnamese... for ten years or more, the war on Terror because Bill Clinton wouldn't arrest Osama bin Laden and now this. But this was a strange one, who fired the missiles? Only you and I know that it was fired by someone not a party to the conflict in the Far East. Back up. Do you really think old Joe trusted Adolf?

o

American Rules of Engagement are, don't fire until you're fired upon. The real cause of the bombing of the *USS Cole*... was the rules of engagement, which were obeyed, and the Commander was subsequently denied promotion and retired at the same rank of Commander in 2007.

US Code of law explicitly limits the total number of flag officers that may be on active duty at any given time. The total number of active duty flag officers is capped at 160 for the Regular Navy, augmented by a smaller number of additional flag officers in the Navy Reserve who are either on full-time active duty, temporary active duty, or on the Reserve Active Status List (RASL) as part-time drilling reservists. Some of these slots are reserved or set by statute. For example the Deputy Judge Advocate General of the Navy is a two-star rear admiral in the Navy. In the Coast Guard, the Chief Medical Officer is also two-star rear admiral. In the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, at least half of the Assistant Surgeons General are one-star rear admirals and no more than half are two-star rear admirals. Officers serving in certain intelligence positions are not counted against the statutory limit.

For the Navy, no more than 16.7% of the service's active-duty flag officers may have more than two stars. The three-star grade goes hand-in-hand with the position of office it is linked to, so the rank is temporary. Officers may only achieve three-star grade if they are appointed to positions that require the officer to hold such a rank. Their rank expires with the expiration of their term of office, which is usually set by statute, unless they retire while holding the higher rank.

For the army, navy, and air force, no more than about 25% of the service's active duty general or flag officers may have more than two stars, and statute sets the total number of four-star officers allowed in each service. This is set at 6 four-star navy admirals. Four-star grades go hand-in-hand with the positions of office they are linked to, so these ranks are temporary. Officers may only achieve four-star grade if they are appointed to positions that require the officer to hold such a rank. Their rank expires with the expiration of their term of office, which is usually set by statute, unless they retire while holding the higher rank.

So, that Commander might have made Captain, but Flag Officer was unlikely and the chances of rising above RA (UH) were impossible because even if it isn't your fault, it's your fault. "All ahead flank," was probably the last meaningful order that Commander would give, regardless. He was driving their ship. *McCampbell* DDG 85 marks the introduction of Navy Area TBMD capability aboard DDGs. (Navy Theater Ballistic Missile Defense combines both Theater-Wide (Upper Tier) and Area Defense (Lower Tier) defense capabilities to protect naval forces during the critical early phases of an armed conflict. In many cases, the US Navy may be the primary line of defense against the actions of an aggressor, such as a ballistic missile attack. TBMD is the most viable near-term response to such a threat.)

As of 2002 plans were for 57 DDG 51 Class destroyers through FY 2004, representing an estimated total program cost of \$40-45 billion with the last ship scheduled to deliver in the year 2009. $\$45,000,000,000 \div 57 = \$789,473,684.21$ average excluding inflation and annual operating costs and maintenance. And, to think, the Chinese used a torpedo that probably went for a million or so, an Mk 48 ADCAP costs about \$3 million, or more.

Men and boys... the only difference is the price of their toys... was never truer than when the torpedoes hit the *USS McCampbell*.

o

The surviving Chinese Leadership had no idea whom may have launched against Beijing. The only clue was that 4 warheads had detonated. The surviving US Leadership had no idea whom may have launched against Washington. The only clue was that 4 warheads detonated. Do we have a hotline with Beijing? Moscow, I know, but Beijing I don't know. I would only make sense that the 5 'major' nuclear powers have hotlines. But that club has expanded by one member and only the Japanese and the US governments know who the new guy on the block is.

Before I stepped into it, I checked out hotlines and found:

USA–Russia

The most famous hotline between states is the Moscow–Washington hotline, which is also known as the “red telephone”, although telephones have never been used in this capacity. This direct communications link was established on June 20, 1963, in the wake of the Cuban Missile Crisis, and utilized teletypewriter technology, later replaced by telecopier and then by electronic mail.

USA–UK

Already during World War II – two decades before the hotline Washington–Moscow was established–there was a hotline between the Cabinet War Room bunker under No. 10 Downing Street and the White House in Washington. From 1943–1946, this link was made secure by using the very first voice encryption machine, called SIGSALY.

Russia–China

A hotline connection between Moscow and Beijing was used during the 1969 frontier confrontation between the two countries. The Chinese however refused the Russian peace attempts and ended the communications link. After a reconciliation between the former enemies, the hotline between China and Russia was revived in 1996.

Russia–France

On his visit to the Soviet Union in 1966, French President Charles de Gaulle announced that a hotline would be established between Paris and Moscow. The line was upgraded from a telex to a high-speed fax machine in 1989.

Russia–UK

A London–Moscow hotline was not formally established until a treaty of friendship between the two countries in 1992. An upgrade was announced when Foreign Secretary William Hague visited Moscow in 2011.

India–Pakistan

On June 20, 2004, both India and Pakistan agreed to extend a nuclear testing ban and to set up a hotline between their foreign secretaries aimed at preventing misunderstandings that might lead to nuclear war. The hotline was set up with the assistance of United States military officers.

USA–China

The United States and China set up a defense hotline in 2008, but it has rarely been used in crises.

China–India

India and China announced a hotline for the foreign ministers of both countries while reiterating their commitment to strengthening ties and building “mutual political trust”.

China–Japan

In February 2013, the Senkaku Islands dispute gave renewed impetus to a China–Japan hotline, which had been agreed to but due to rising tensions had not been established.

North and South Korea

The Seoul–Pyongyang hotline was opened on August 18, 1972 and maintained by the Red Cross. North Korea deactivated the hotline on March 11th 2013, as part of increasing tensions on the Korean peninsula.

The downside to hotlines is that they’re like Press Secretaries. Unless a party has iron-clad proof of wrong doing on the part of the party on the other end... One can even take it a step further, e.g., Vlad calls DC and Beijing and says, “We detected a launch and it wasn’t us.” Which is quieter, a Borei or a Virginia? Can China spare Improved Kilo-class subs to track Borei-class?

What about the warheads? The JL-2 warheads, (MIRV'd) are reportedly 90kT. The Trident II carries W76 at 100kT and the Bulava carries 150kT. Can you really tell the size of the weapon by the amount of damage? The smaller bomb devastated Hiroshima while the larger bomb did much less damage at Nagasaki.

o

“Are you getting any radiation?”

“Absolutely none above background and background generally varies.”

“Ok if I hook up the TV to the outlet and dish connection?”

“Go ahead, maybe we can find out what is going on.”

“Smoke, check this out.”

...and the attack against the McCampbell suddenly became yesterday's news with near simultaneous attacks against Beijing and Washington. Confidential sources have informed this network that Moscow notified Washington of the launch moments after it occurred and denied responsibility.

The type 094 Chinese SSBN apparently has 12 tubes carrying JL-2 missiles which carry nuclear warheads. These could be single or MIRVs 3 or 4 on the JMA, and 10 maximum JMB.

The new Russian Borei-class SSBNs have either 16 or 20 tubes each carry a Bulava missile with 6 warheads.

American Ohio-class has a maximum capacity of 24 Trident missiles. The original 8 boats were equipped with the Trident I missiles and the subsequent boats with Trident II missiles. The first 4 boats in the class were eventually converted to SSGNs carrying Tomahawk Cruise missiles and the other 4 were retrofitted to carry the Trident II missiles. While the Trident II has a maximum capacity of 12 warheads, they were only equipped with 8. Due to treaties the number has been reduced to 4 warheads per missile and 4 tubes will be permanently deactivated.

Concerning the attack on Washington, a single missile was launched from the mid-Atlantic and delivered 4 warheads to the Washington area. The President has stated that when the nation responsible for this attack is identified to a reasonable degree of certainty, he will ask Congress to declare that a state of war exists between our two nations.

To recap, only two cities were struck with nuclear weapons, Beijing and Washington. We will return ...

"I guess that explains why the generator didn't kick in. Although it shouldn't have anyway with 2 banks of submarine batteries charged to over 99% of capacity."

"Those are those huge batteries that hold several thousand amps, right?"

"Seven thousand amps; and I have 2 banks of 24 plus 2 dry spares. And yes they cost an arm and a leg, around 3 grand per installed. They were sort of an afterthought and I had to have another excavation made to build the battery room on the other side of the generator room. Since batteries produce hydrogen gas, the inflowing air is filtered for CBRN and the outflowing air is under pressure with blast valves on both."

"What's for lunch?"

"Got a hollow leg?"

"Nah, just curious."

"Let's do something we should have done a long time ago. This printout shows the Short Term Storage, STS, foods and the Long Term Storage, LTS, foods. Read through it and see if there's anything you think is missing. We may or may not be able to get the missing items, depending on how people reacted to what happened. The contents of the freezer are on another list."

"Are we going armed when we look?"

"A rifle and a shotgun in the pickup, handguns concealed and civilian clothes."

"Ok, here's my list."

"Here's the list of what's in the freezer. See how it changes your list."

"Half of your beef is ground meat and so is the pork."

"Not exactly. The C81 is a Hormel ham, the HTS is Hormel thick sliced bacon and the ground beef is ground sirloin, 10% fat."

"Hamburger."

"No, hamburger is 30% fat. And, who doesn't like biscuits and sausage gravy?"

"There ain't no cigars."

"Now, you're reaching. And beer doesn't keep."

We actually didn't need much because I'd filled the holes. However, to keep Steve happy I agreed to go shopping and my WR602 was Velcroed on the dash. We took his Loaded and my 590A1 (w/ bayonet) and off we went to Mountain Home. Grocery stores were open but the front door of every one had a local LEO standing guard with a shotgun. At the first store, we found limits, a sign of things to come. Two people translated to 14 meals, 2 loaves of bread, 1 package of lunch meat, one jar of peanut butter, 1 box of cereal, 1 12 pack of soda and 1 12 pack of beer plus cigarettes, 14 packs per person. There was a conspicuous absence of fresh fruit and vegetables. That was considered to be a 2 week supply for 2 people.

We made the rounds, occasionally finding ground chuck or ground round but no steaks. I took the cigarettes although I usually drove over the state line because Missouri was much cheaper. I had lots of cigarettes, just not Steve's brand. With the cost of fuel, a person had to buy enough cartons to justify the trip and I usually dropped about a grand, ~30 cartons. I kept them in sealed Mylar bags with oxygen absorbers in pails – unlabeled. We hit every grocery and Wal-Mart in the area and we're good on coke, beer and cigarettes. The other things were added to the freezer or STS.

Refrigerated bread keeps well and frozen bread even better, especially if it's bagged 2 bagged loaves to a bag. 'Best if used by' foods were refrigerated because they weren't lying.

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"Enough food for one person to eat lightly for 2 weeks. That's not right."

"You do realize that by making a stop at every grocery slash food store in the area that we probably took food other people need, don't you."

"The early bird gets the worm Smoke and we'll let them have their turn next. We're pretty well set for a while what with the STS and what we got today."

"I'm set for 21 years, what about you?"

"We'll share."

About half of the STS came from my pocket and the rest from 'fill in the holes on me'. Plus half of what we got today because we went 50-50. However, all of the LTS were on me, even if I did get carried away at Emergency Essentials. In truth, those little extras that had been added probably amounted to another year's worth if I could get some of the locally grown rice and plant a garden.

Thinking about a garden brought to mind one of those bigboy or betterboy tomatoes with bacon and lettuce. Didn't have any lettuce nor any tomatoes, the thought crashed quickly. Maybe in 6 months we could have tomatoes, I had those seeds from Walton's. I

looked to see what kind they were and looked the type up on the web. The fruit tended to be soft, not exactly what I had in mind earlier when I was thinking about BLT.

“I’m sorry, ‘we’ll share’? About half the STS were accumulated on your nickel and none of the LTS. Figure the stuff from Walton at a little over \$1,750 per year and the stuff from Emergency Essentials close to \$4,500 per year, on sale no less.”

“Don’t get worked up Smoke. I bought that 2nd propane tank and half the propane in it. Yeah, maybe I wasn’t involved in laying in the LTS foods, but it sounds to me like you have about \$45,000 plus \$17,500 tied up in those. I’m good for my half of what, maybe sixty three grand... call it \$32,000. You know damn good and well the only time I ever drank overseas was when we pulled a little R&R. I do have 35 years in the same infantry you did and I know my job. Hell I had no idea what you were assembling for an armory and I’ll be damn if they aren’t nearly identical. Lighten up a little pal and you’ll see just exactly what I can do. If push comes to shove, I have some gold and silver too, but obviously not as much as you do.”

“More identical than you think you old fart, I bought a good used PT1911B and retired the M1911A1.”

“Hallelujah, you did listen.”

“No, I tried it remember and it was just plain better. You know, the action was smoother. My advantage was I bought some 8 round magazines for the M1911 and they work in the Taurus. We can divide ‘em and all you have to remember is stainless if for the suppressor.”

“Well, I suppose the question is will we still get our retirement checks?”

“It shouldn’t really take long to get the system back up, so I expect so. I don’t think I’d hold onto the cash and turn it into hard currency. I’m not so sure that ‘this note is legal tender for all debts, public and private’ cuts it. Nowhere does it say that, ‘notes are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government.’ The only reference I could find was in FDIC where it says, ‘FDIC deposit insurance is backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government. This means that the resources of the United States government stand behind FDIC-insured depositors.’ And, as you probably know, the insurance is limited.”

“When did you figure this out?”

“I learned at the post library, you know I didn’t socialize much.”

“I know; why is that?”

“Ever hear ‘once burned twice shy’?”

“A few times. What happened to you?”

“Her name was Judy and she was two-timing me with another guy in class. If you don’t expose yourself, it’s hard to get hurt. I enlisted right after graduation.”

“Anyway are we going to be square on the food?”

“Yeah, we’ll work it out.”

“Tell me something. You have a MUNS on both your Super Match and Tac-50 when an UNS would have been enough for the Super Match. Why?”

“The price was right?”

“The MUNS cost a grand more than the UNS.”

“True if you bought it at Optics Planet. I didn’t and paid ten grand for the pair.”

“In gold no doubt.”

“Oh yeah.”

“Are all Logistic Sergeants crooks?”

“Only the ones that we know; besides much of that stuff is accounted for as expendable ordnance and or ammunition.”

“Listen to us Smoke. You can always tell the people who stayed in too long.”

“I’d have gone for 40 except for the rumor we were going back to Afghanistan.”

“That’s why you got out? I was surprised when I heard because I thought you were married to the Army. You know my reason, Marion. She was always there as an independent counsel when I had a tough decision to make and while the NCOs’ run the Army, their wives ran them.”

“You know Steve; I sure hope someone gets behind this madness in the Far East and keeps it from actually turning into a full blown Global Thermonuclear War. One of those fiction, authors Tired Old Man, TOM, was in the Air Force during the early ‘60s stationed at Edwards AFB. Virtually all of his stories are centered on the outcome of a GTW, as he calls it. He’s said several times that he was never so frightened in his life.

“It was a day like every other day, with a twist; that night when they returned to the main base, SAC had 12 B-47 Stratojets disbursed into a shotgun area at the end of the flight line.

“There are two authors in particular that I read extensively TOM and Jerry.”

“Like the cat and mouse?”

“The names yes, but they’re no cartoon heroes although TOM has a strange sense of humor. Jerry has this list of almost 200 potential catastrophes and has covered at least half with stories. Many of them are coping in the aftermath of a GTW or other catastrophes while TOM spends most of his time preparing, much like I have done. I have to laugh; he ends up with enough ammo to fight 3 wars and avoids getting into firefights.”

“Were they your guides when you prepared?”

“Not entirely, although for the most part yes. Take that generator I have. I wanted a propane fueled 1800rpm 30kw generator capable of a continuous 240vac at 100 amps. While they discussed generators, by the time I got involved, the models were discontinued and I had to look very hard to find what I wanted. The higher the output, the more fuel the engine uses, explaining 60,000 gallons of propane instead of 30 thousand.”

“How do you handle the maintenance issue?”

“Several drums of oil and more filters than I’ll probably ever use. On top of that, rebuild packages for the engine and alternator including a spare alternator head. The generator was the quick and dirty solution to losing power. The PV panels and Wind Turbines were later additions. Those submarine batteries were the last part of the package to store the spare Wind and Photo-Voltaic energy. I don’t buy power; I sell power if you can believe that. There’s a potential 60kwh from those 2 sources and with the grid tie setup the excess is all outbound.”

“Generator too?”

“No way.”

“I was surprised at how secluded your acreage is. I take it not many people know where it’s located.”

“That’s the so called Grey Man Theory.”

The Grey Man is always invisible in plain sight. The Grey Man is totally aware of his environs, his own capabilities or lack thereof, his weaponry and his levels of competence with that weaponry. He constantly strives to improve upon both his capabilities and competence. In public, he is always respectful, even to the point of obsequiousness if the situation calls for it. He always appears to be just a little confused by what is happening around him, while in reality he is alertly doing a tactical assessment.

The Grey Man NEVER draws attention to himself by word, dress, action, or mannerism. The Young Grey Man is dismissed as a wimp, the Older as a doddering old fool. The

Grey Man derives great inner satisfaction from having this portrayal of himself accepted by all he meets, for it means he is succeeding in his disguise of his actual persona.

The Grey Man is a private man. He practices with his weaponry in private, or only with his fellow Grey Men, always in a secluded location. If he must resort to use of a public facility, he schedules his practice for times when he is likely to be the only one there. At such times he would probably wear bright clothing, to be remembered only as 'that guy in the red jacket and sunglasses', a quite different person from his usual persona. If right-handed, he would always occupy the leftmost station on a NRA bullseye pistol range, with his back to an observer, or the rightmost one for riflery or combat pistol practice. He would not have his name emblazoned on clothing or equipment, nor would he have any noteworthy affiliation proclaimed on his cap. "He's just a guy. Comes every Wednesday morning for his coffeebreak. Always pays cash."

The Grey Man does not drive a pink Cadillac with steer horns on the hood, NOR does he drive the biggest mutherin' 4x4-with-all-the-bells-and-whistles BOV in the lot. The older his vehicle is, the rustier, the less likely it is to draw attention (or to be stolen, for that matter). This vehicle is, under its exterior, scrupulously maintained and in excellent running order. If pulled over by authority on the basis of appearance, it can be shown to meet or exceed all requirements under licensing laws, and an obsequious co-operative manner precludes a search under the seats. The Grey Man does not speed on the highway: cruise control is his friend. So is the Highway Patrol: he waves to any he sees. If he travels the same route constantly, at the same times, The Grey Man becomes a 'fixture' and can be dismissed from conscious observation.

It helps the Survivor to build up this persona of The Grey Man gradually and over time. The anti-gun sheeple neighbors will quickly rat out the 'Patriot' who is always loudly declaiming about his 'Rights' and 'what will happen if they try to take my guns'. The Grey Man goes far out of his way never to offend anyone, imitating the duck which appears calm on the surface of his pond whilst paddling like hell under the surface.

Be seen as conservative in all you do. A Survivor is a Grey Man, and that little old grey man alone over there in the corner is probably a Survivor!

And that young guy next to him? Just another wimp? Or are they both watching each other's backs?

Making the other guy waste precious time in assessing the situation is a big part of staying alive. Practice being grey now, while there's time to build your skills.

"That's an excerpt from a website and I can't even tell you which one or who wrote it. If they don't know where you are, you basically don't exist. Some of the local vendors know, like the propane, diesel and coal delivery men and the firewood vendor. The contractors who built the shelter including the concrete block and concrete know, of course."

“You left off some, like the PV panels and Wind Turbine installers and whoever set up the grid tie.”

“Right; I have mail box and a cellphone and the TV and Internet is satellite. You can't avoid everyone but you can avoid most.”

World War Three – Chapter 8

“Under that theory, if we take an M1A, it should probably a Loaded model and we should leave the bayonet home. Is that a Walther PPK in the ankle holster?”

“Yes it is. I did have my PT1911B in the glove box. Admittedly the .380 isn't a very powerful cartridge, but it's better than a pocket knife.”

“Even if it's an automatic knife?”

“All an automatic knife does is present the blade faster. It's really a close in weapon. One or two .380 rounds to the head don't necessarily force you to expose yourself.”

“I'll have to pick one up. All I have in 9mm is an M9.”

“At last, a difference in our armories; I have a Browning Hi-Power.”

“Foreign model?”

“The box said Morgan, Utah. It has the spur hammer dating it to about 1972 or later. I got it in the late '70s.”

“Why didn't we check all the beer joints for beer? We only checked the grocery stores. Let's do that and I'll buy. It's driving me nuts just sitting around waiting for the other shoe to fall.”

Arkansas has 75 counties, of which more than half are dry, and all alcohol sales are forbidden statewide on Sundays (Packaged beer and wine sales are currently allowed on Sundays in the cities of Altus, Eureka Springs, Springdale and Tontitown. Additionally, licensed microbreweries can sell “growlers” for carry-out on Sundays) and on Christmas Day. The issue is more complex than that, however, since any local jurisdiction (county, municipal, etc.) can exercise control over alcohol laws via public referendum. For this reason, some cities like Jacksonville, are dry despite being located in a “wet” county. In nearby North Little Rock, the distinction of areas is even more specific, with a single township inside the city designated as a dry area. In Fort Smith the same situation exists but with a wet city existing in an otherwise dry county. A city or municipality can elect to go dry in a wet county, but a city or municipality cannot elect to go wet in a dry county. Occasionally, in counties with two county seats, one district may be wet and the other dry, such as Sebastian and Logan Counties.

Dry counties (with county seat(s) in parentheses): Ashley (Hamburg), Bradley (Warren), Clay (Corning/Piggott), Cleburne (Heber Springs), Craighead (Jonesboro/Lake City), Columbia (Magnolia), Crawford (Van Buren), Faulkner (Conway), Fulton (Salem), Grant (Sheridan), Hempstead (Hope), Hot Spring (Malvern), Howard (Nashville), Independence (Batesville), Izard (Melbourne), Johnson (Clarksville), Lafayette (Lewisville), Lawrence (Walnut Ridge/Powhatan), Lincoln (Star City), Little River (Ashdown), Southern

Logan (Booneville), Lonoke (Lonoke), Madison (Huntsville), Montgomery (Mt. Ida), Newton (Jasper), Perry (Perryville), Pike (Murfreesboro), Polk (Mena), Pope (Russellville), Randolph (Pocahontas), Saline (Benton), Scott (Waldron), Searcy (Marshall), Southern Sebastian (Greenwood), Sevier (De Queen), Stone (Mountain View), Van Buren (Clinton), White (Searcy), and Yell (Dardanelle/Danville)..

Wet counties (with county seat(s) in parentheses): Arkansas (De Witt/Stuttgart), Baxter (Mountain Home), Benton (Bentonville), Boone (Harrison), Carroll (Berryville/Eureka Springs), Chicot (Lake Village), Clark (Arkadelphia), Cleveland (Rison), Conway (Morrilton), Crittenden (Marion), Cross (Wynne), Desha (Arkansas City), Dallas (Fordyce), Drew (Monticello), Franklin (Ozark/Charleston), Garland (Hot Springs), Greene (Paragould), Jackson (Newport), Jefferson (Pine Bluff), northern Logan (Paris), Marion (Yellville), Miller (Texarkana), Mississippi (Osceola/Blytheville), Monroe (Clarendon), Ouachita (Camden), Phillips (Helena), Poinsett (Harrisburg), Prairie (Des Arc/De Valls Bluff), Pulaski (Little Rock), St. Francis (Forrest City), northern Sebastian (Fort Smith), Sharp (Ash Flat) Union (El Dorado), Washington (Fayetteville), and Woodruff (Augusta). Grocery stores can only sell beer in wet counties.

The deal was to go into tavern/beer joint/bar (private club) and order a small draft beer and get a 12 pack apiece to go. The fourth one we hit proved to be unique.

“Rollin?”

“Yes?”

“It’s me, Judy. I’ve a break coming up; can you wait so I can talk to you?”

“What could we possibly have to talk about?”

“The misunderstanding; please say yes.”

“Oh, alright. Steve, get us 3 more drafts.”

“I’m on it!”

Misunderstanding? What misunderstanding? Darrell said he had a date with Judy.

“Thank you for staying. I’ll make this short and to the point. Darrell was lying. He was a creep and always pestering me to go out him and I always refused. I haven’t had a date with anyone since our last date.”

“Floyd Cramer, 1960.”

“Conway Twitty, 1972.”

“You two forgot Emmylou Harris, 1982.”

“Do you live in the area Rollin?”

“Yes, you, Judy?”

“Mountain Home.”

“Rural Route Mountain Home.

“I’d like to meet your wife some time and tell her how lucky she is.”

“I haven’t had a date with anyone since our last date.”

“Judy is it? I’m Steve and I’ve known Smoke for nigh on 40 years and he’s never dated anyone.”

“Smoke?”

“RJ Reynolds, the tobacco company. They hung that on me during my first enlistment.”

Judy went on to explain she’d never dated because nobody met the standard that I’d set when we were dating. (Probably like women who never found anyone as good as Daddy.) People do strange things for even stranger reasons. If I could find Darrell, I offer him a job... as a live target. She had to get back to work and we exchanged phone numbers before she left.

“She’s an attractive woman.”

“She has aged well. When you’re young, you sometimes wonder what he or she will look like when they’re older.”

“He?”

“It was general statement.”

“So, you were wrong about her two-timing you.”

“I’m very much afraid so.”

“Your unsociability could indicate that she was your one true love as much as her never finding anyone that met the standard you set indicates that you were her one true love.”

“Huh?”

“You know exactly what I mean.”

“Yes I do. That’s what I was afraid of.”

Basically, what I believe Steve was getting at that they had been and still were ‘in love’ with each other. Like Tina Turner asked, *What’s love got to do with it?* Everything and nothing. They went into the club that Steve was a member of to get 2 12 packs of beer. Smoke didn’t belong and didn’t notice/recognize Judy until she identified herself. It could have been 2 ships passing in the night, but she had to give it one more try. I hate to rain on their parade but the middle of ‘World War Three’ is one hell of a time to get back together.

On the other hand, what better time was there? Twenty plus years for one is ten plus years for two or, seven years for three. It’s been a lot of years since he enlisted in the Army, 48 years to be precise and Smoke is 66. They are going to have to get to know each other all over again. Why is Judy still working and not retired? One possibility that comes to mind is that some people can’t afford to retire while others can afford to retire AND prepare for the future. Ten for two would last most of their expected life times. And, Steve said, ‘but I shor ‘nuf have a lotta cousins’.

Preparing isn’t cheap if you do it right. Some of those appliances are expensive alternatives to electrical appliances. A 30kw generator probably goes for about 10 grand installed with the automatic transfer switch. PV panels still aren’t inexpensive and 50 batteries at 3 grand each is 150 grand. These days some of the inverters have the charge controller built in, but what does grid tie setup cost? That Wind Turbine was probably another 30 grand. His cheapest major appliance was the 25ft³ Sears freezer.

Steve never really said how much insurance he had on Marion, either. Does the military have some program to allow soldiers to insure their spouses for large amounts at affordable rates? (Check out FSGLI \$100k). I do know that soldiers can acquire large amounts of coverage for themselves (\$400k) at affordable rates. Never lose sight the expression, ‘that was then and this now’.

He’d dropped a bundle on firearms and ammo, maybe 40 grand. He’d bought a propane tank, 15 grand and he’d bought 15,000 gallons on propane. With what he had from the insurance settlement, 100 grand, his cashed out leave and savings I sort of assumed he wasn’t broke, yet. He did offer to buy half the LTS, over time, we’d agreed to work that out. It appeared that I was in the process talking myself into reestablishing a relationship with Judy.

“Steve, if I decided to pursue a relationship with Judy, do you think you could work something with one of your cousins?”

“Would I still have shelter privileges if I could?”

“I don’t think that would be a problem, I could swap one king with one of the queens in the shelter.”

“And I’d get my share of the STS?”

“You can have all you bought.”

“Let me check, but it shouldn’t be a problem. Be ok if I left most of my arsenal here? I don’t really want my kin to know what I have.”

“You’d be taking the Loaded, 590A1, your Taurus and PPK?”

“With enough ammo to fight my way back here. Know where I can get a broad-banded TS-2000 and CB for my truck?”

“The CB is easy. Ham Radio Outlet or Amateur Electronics Supply would have the Kenwood. And I know a guy who can broad-band it.”

“Anything else I should add to the pickup?”

“You might consider a Transfer Flow 98 gallon cross bed fuel tank, some pioneer tools for the truck and possibly a winch. You’ll need something like a truck generator and large deep cycle battery for the TS-2000 because it uses 23 amps.”

“Ok, I’ll look into it. I might switch to a service body to have storage for some spare pickup parts, a BOB and some of the ammo.”

“Look, there’s no rush, I just wanted to give you advance notice.”

“It’s no biggie. I saw how the two of you looked at each other when the circumstances became clear. The only thing I was left wondering was how long it would take the two of you to get involved.”

“I haven’t called her yet. I don’t want to screw up for a second time.”

“Is she a shooter?”

“We used to go target shooting with a .22 rifle, but that was about 50 years ago. I’ll have to ask.”

“It’s not like you have to buy many weapons since you have 2 M1As plus a HK416 and Browning Hi-Power for her. About all she’d need would be a Walther and a Mossberg with a bayonet. From my experience, women do better with ALICE LBE. I think I packed Marion’s and you’re welcome to it. It has the medium pack plus the butt pack 2 stainless canteens, a stainless stove and stainless cup with 4 magazine pouches. I have some reduced recoil Remington slugs and buckshot we can work a deal on.”

Was Steve trying to talk me into it?

Beijing and Washington, how convenient; why not Moscow, London, Paris or Berlin? Germany was building the type 212 and type 214 submarines... How about a type 216 with missile tubes that was larger than the type 214 and built out of the non-magnetic materials used to build the type 212? Imperial Japan and Nazi Germany were allies during WW II. Probably not, but it was an interesting thought. The JL-2 was derived from the D-31 and the Bulava was derived from the Topol-M. Apparently Japan had an ICBM; could it be the basis for a SLBM?

Just random thoughts you know, but most of thoughts weren't random and had face to go with them, named Judy. I didn't know if she gave a land line number or a cellphone number and the surest way to find out was to call. So I did.

"This is Judy and I'm away from my phone at the moment so leave your name and number and I'll get back to you."

"Judy, it's Rollin. I was calling to see if you'd be interested in going out to dinner and catch up on the past 48 years. If you wouldn't be interested, I understand. It sure was nice to run into you. It really was a misunderstanding and wholly my fault, I'm terribly sorry. I guess I'd better go. If I don't hear back from you, I do understand."

"Hi, it's Judy. Where and when. Casual, semi-formal or jacket and tie establishment."

"You pick and I'll dress appropriately."

"Ok, how about nice casual? I really don't want to get dressed up."

"You have a place in mind?"

"Yes, I think I do. Pick me up at the club when I get off at 5. I took a chance that you might call and brought a clean nice casual outfit with me."

"I'll be there with bells on."

"You don't need the bells, just be here. We have a lot to talk about and I'm not sure we could cover 48 years in 48 hours."

"I've been thinking and have realized I still feel the same about you as I did before Darrell said what he did."

"Good, I've always felt that way. You're rather distinguished looking; the years have been kind to you."

"The same applies to you, Judy."

"Bye....."

“See you at 5.”

“You seem to be cheerful.”

“Got a date.”

“Judy, of course.”

“Naturally.”

“Do you suppose she’s glowing much as you are? In all the years I’ve never seen you this happy. Want me to bunk out tonight?”

“Tonight, no...”

“I’d better talk to some of my cousins.”

“That might be a good idea.”

◦

“Hi.”

“Hi yourself. You clean up well.”

“Yes, you do. Where to?”

“My place or yours?”

“Maybe another time?”

“Okay, we can go slowly, but we’re not getting any younger.”

◦

We were from Harrison, Arkansas, the Boone county seat.

Thomas Robb, national director of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, maintains his office near Harrison in the outlying town of Zinc and uses a Harrison mailing address for the organization. Combined with the history of the 1905 and 1909 banishment of unemployed, former railroad workers, this incidental connection to the KKK has given Harrison a negative image which it has taken active steps to combat in recent years. In 2013, a billboard appeared that read: “Anti-Racist is a Code Word for Anti-White.” In response, a local radio station removed its nearby billboard, and students from North Arkansas College passed out fliers calling for a protest of the sign. An official statement read:

“The mayor’s office considers the content inflammatory, distasteful and not in line with the truth on how Harrison is a city of welcoming and tolerant citizens.”

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Judy hadn’t gone to college, which wasn’t surprising; the family wasn’t upper middle class. She’d worked for a few years in Harrison and had gone from there to Fayetteville and from Fayetteville to Little Rock. Her next move was to Jonesboro and she left there for Mountain Home for the same reason I didn’t settle there, earthquakes. She said she’d never dated because when she found someone interesting, he just didn’t have that certain something.

I told her I could relate to an extent. I’d enlisted to get away from the bad feelings at the time and the longer I was in the Army; the more I avoided an active social life. The up side was I spent a lot of time studying, usually at post or camp libraries. I realized that I ended up with most of my paychecks unspent and looked to a way to let my savings keep even with inflation. Eventually maximizing my savings became a goal in itself. I’d only retired to avoid a possible additional tour to Afghanistan.

I told her I had considered Jonesboro but decided on Mountain Home for the same reason she had. I didn’t drink much and had I; we might run into each other as much as 10 years earlier. I also admitted I had never been with another woman during the entire 48 years. [Mountain Home is wet, Flippin is wet. [Made the same error in *Sweet Dreams!*]

She then told me that she had developed endometriosis in her late 20s and had gone through 10 years of unsuccessful treatments before electing to have a hysterectomy combined with removal of the endometriosis by excision. She achieved the first true relief in over ten years. And, while she had never had sex, a fair number of doctors had their hands all over her insides. Then she asked if I was sure I didn’t want to stop by her apartment ‘for a nightcap’?

I told her I really shouldn’t but if she was sure, why not? Oh yeah, she was positive and if I didn’t want alcohol she had tea, coffee, beer and soft drinks. My resolve crumbled and we headed to her apartment. I took a ginger ale and she took a shower. Then, she had tea while I showered.

“Good morning you.”

“I could get used to this.”

“Yes.”

“Yes what?”

“Yes, I’ll marry you, even with a prenuptial agreement if necessary.”

“Ok, what’s getting married involve.”

“Leave it all to me. Do you have enough for a couple of wedding bands?”

“No engagement ring?”

“We won’t be engaged that long.”

“Yes I have enough for wedding bands. I’ll be getting you a few other things to add to what I have?”

“Right, which caliber?”

“A Walther PPK in .380 and a Mossberg shotgun.”

“I already have a Walther and the shotgun with the Marine Corps bayonet.”

“And you can have my Loaded M1A, HK416 and Browning Hi-Power.”

“Don’t bother on the M1A; I have a Super Match and a PT1911B that I bought when they came out in 2006. How’d you get the HK416?”

“Don’t ask but most of the guns have suppressors.”

“How your ammo supply?”

“It should be enough. Still I better get you a Loaded as a backup and a Browning.”

“I have 20 cases of Black Hills for the Super Match but only some for a Loaded.”

“Believe me, I have plenty in 147gr ball and 168gr .308 match PPU.”

“I have 5 full ammo cans of South African surplus that I got pretty cheap from AIM Surplus.”

“That’s some good ammo and it’s perfect for a Loaded M1A.” [Fact: <0.8 MOA at 500 yards with iron sights, e.g. ~4” group; my kid, not me.]

o

It would appear 48 years of waiting paid dividends. It would further appear that Steve was out of house and home. The strangest part about the whole deal was Judy knew Steve from the club and he’d mentioned his friend Smoke but she didn’t know he’d been referring to Rollin James Reynolds.

Authors Note: You try to contrive circumstances like what I've written about and see how YOU do. Endnote

Before a week had passed, they were married, Judy was unemployed and she'd given notice to her apartment manager. She was on month to month and was required to give 30 days' notice. They would take the remaining days from her one month security deposit and keep the cleaning deposit, leaving her with a small refund. Steve stood up with Smoke and a friend of Judy's stood up with her.

They spent their honeymoon dividing their time between the king size bed and the shooting range. Smoke had ordered her a Tac-338 with all the bells and whistles and 250gr factory .338 Lapua ammunition together with some 300gr Sierra BTHP Match-King. Judy had been saving for the rifle and ammo and she didn't have any suppressors, so they went to Little Rock and saw Smoke's favorite class 3 dealer. The dealer, for a consideration, just happened to have HK416s and HK417s with grenade launchers but only military less-lethal grenades. Judy bought her own since Smoke assured her he had 'lots' of .223 and .308 PPU.

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Back to the war...

It seems they have a bunker in the White House and while it wasn't nearly as good as Mt. Weather, Site R, Cheyenne Mountain or Holloman AFB, served to protect RP until he could get to the Mountain. That was quite the challenge and ultimately involved leasing a Gulfstream V to fly him out with a fighter escort of 4 Raptors.

Once in Colorado Springs, he collected his thoughts and addressed the nation:

My fellow Americans,

I didn't realize that my inauguration included a fireworks display, but I was too busy ducking to enjoy it. And I won't borrow from FDR and describe it as a day that will live in infamy. More of our fellow citizens were killed in this attack than at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

As I stated on January 20th, when we determine with a reasonable degree of certainty who was responsible for the attack on our nation's capital, I will ask Congress to declare that a state of war exists between our two countries. I have notified Chinese officials that we were not responsible for the attack on their capital, Beijing; whether they believe me remains to be seen.

Prior to my inauguration, two 1mT nuclear devices were exploded in the south Indian Ocean. We had no clue who was responsible for the first weapon. The second weapon was delivered by an ICBM launched from Japan by the country of Japan. We must therefore assume that they were responsible for the first weapon test.

The United States has a contract to provide 10 additional Flight Ila Arleigh Burke-class DDGs to Japan and after discussions we have decided to fulfill those contracts. CVN-78 USS Gerald R. Ford has completed its sea trials, has been fully outfitted with stores and is in transit to the Pacific Ocean via Cape Horn and will resupply at Pearl Harbor before proceeding to the East China Sea. CVN-68 USS Nimitz and her Strike Group have departed San Diego is also in transit to the East China Sea.

In light of these attacks, we are reevaluating the outfitting of our Oho-class SSBNs. If we do restore the full missile and warhead complement, it will be temporary as the United States full intends to comply with its Treaties.

I will be in touch with you as time and conditions warrant. God bless America.

o

“Whoa, it sound like all 24 tubes will have a D-5 missile with 8 W76 warheads.”

“Can you blame him Rollin?”

“No, no I can’t. It’s a shame that Obama decided to live in New York rather than Washington.”

“That’s a terrible thing do say.”

“Do you disagree?”

“Not really, no. How many SLBM warheads will that make?”

“Fourteen times twenty-four times eight equals two-thousand six-hundred and eighty-eight. That’s exactly what they had before all those damn treaties traded off the warheads and later missiles.”

“I put a beef roast in the crock pot with onions, potatoes and carrots.”

“That’s one of my favorite ways to fix a beef roast. Have you ever tried crock pot chili?”

“No, I never have.”

“When we finish off the roast, I’ll show you how I do that.”

“Before you do, let me cook some southern fried chicken.”

“By all means. Would you help me move Steve’s king size mattress to the shelter? I have a new mattress cover to put on it. Then, we’ll move my queen size from the shelter to the second bedroom and put a new mattress cover on it and make both beds.”

“Steve will be coming here?”

“Only in case of an all-out nuclear attack. I promised him he could as a part of agreeing to get him to move out.”

“Do you think an all-out nuclear attack is likely?”

“To tell you the truth Judy, I don’t know what to think. I think that what we’ve seen in the Far East could be the beginning of World War Three. Neither World War One nor World War Two began overnight. Britain wasn’t involved in World War Two until Hitler invaded Poland and Russia wasn’t involved until Hitler invaded them in Operation Barbarossa. The United States wasn’t involved until the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and Hitler then declared war against the United States.

“Although a resurgence of imperialism was an underlying cause, the immediate trigger for World War One was the 28 June 1914 assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, by Yugoslav nationalist Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo. This set off a diplomatic crisis when Austria-Hungary delivered an ultimatum to the Kingdom of Serbia, and international alliances formed over the previous decades were invoked. Within weeks, the major powers were at war and the conflict soon spread around the world.

“The alliances were both reorganized and expanded as more nations entered the war: Italy, Japan and the United States joined the Allies, and the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria the Central Powers. Ultimately, more than 70 million military personnel, including 60 million Europeans, were mobilized in one of the largest wars in history.

“On 28 July, the Austro-Hungarians fired the first shots in preparation for the invasion of Serbia. As Russia mobilized, Germany invaded neutral Belgium and Luxembourg before moving towards France, leading Britain to declare war on Germany. After the German march on Paris was halted, what became known as the Western Front settled into a battle of attrition, with a trench line that would change little until 1917. Meanwhile, on the Eastern Front, the Russian army was successful against the Austro-Hungarians, but was stopped in its invasion of East Prussia by the Germans. In November 1914, the Ottoman Empire joined the war, opening fronts in the Caucasus, Mesopotamia and the Sinai. Italy and Bulgaria went to war in 1915, Romania in 1916, and the United States in 1917.”

World War Three – Chapter 9

“In this case, the opening shots were when China fired missiles against Japanese DDGs. That was compounded by a submarine firing 2 torpedoes against *USS McCampbell* DDG 85. Finally, someone(s) fired missiles on Beijing and Washington. It is beginning.”

“Hold me.”

“Come here.”

“How come that guy in Little Rock had everything in stock and didn’t make us wait on the federal tax stamps?”

“All that took was a little persuasion (2 gold Eagles).”

“What about registering the automatic weapons with Arkansas?”

“The H&Ks can’t be registered since they’re illegal under federal law. The M1A Loaded and Browning Hi-Power didn’t need to be registered on anything more than a 4473. We need to get 2 Universal Night Sights for the Super Matches. I’ll give up my extra Magnum Universal Night Sight for your Tac-338 when we get it. Meanwhile, I’ll check with a few supply Sergeants I know and if they don’t have any new UNS, I think we can get them from Optics Planet in Northbrook, Illinois.”

“Are they expensive?”

“I bought 2 MUNS from a supply Sergeant for \$5,000 each. Who knows, I might end up getting 2 more from the military.”

“How’s that work?”

“For something like that, they’re requisitioned by the Sergeant and when he receives the order, he reports it was short 2 units. Then he pads his retirement when someone, like me, comes looking. That only works with units that have that particular device on their Table of Equipment (TOE). Considering the price of those scopes, that usually causes a CID investigation.

“Actual I paid for mine in hard currency, gold. They like that because there’s no extra cash in their bank accounts.”

“Well, okay.”

“This is Smoke.”

“I thought you was dead.”

“Not hardly. Any chance on getting 2 UNS or 2 MUNS?”

“UNS aren’t on our TOE.”

“But the MUNS are?”

“Oh yeah, but they’ll cost you. The CID was all over my butt.”

“How much?”

“Six in gold, apiece. But you’d better decide right now because I’m retiring and happen to have 2 in stock. The order was for 6 but it came up short.”

“Agreed.”

“I’ll bring them to you; are you still in Mountain Home?”

“Yep.”

“Three weeks. I’ll call you when I hit town. We have a place on the Lake of the Ozarks.”

o

“Okay, Judy, we’ll have 2 more MUNS in 3 weeks.”

“What did they cost you?”

“With the price of gold at \$1,500 an ounce, 18 grand. But I got the gold in 2001 when the price was \$280 an ounce. From that point of view, \$3,360.”

“Do you have a lot of gold?”

“A whole lot less than I had when I got out; in dollar value about the same amount. And most patriot fiction/PAW writers expect the price of gold and silver to jump if we have a global thermonuclear war.”

“You’re rich?”

“Comfortable. Only having you in my life makes me rich.”

Eventually the dealer had the Tac-338, complete, along with the ordered ammo. It was less than the Tac-50, a little. However, the Tac-50A1R2 was easier to shoot than the .338 Lapua. So Judy and I swapped heavy guns. And the retiring Sergeant showed up

with the two AN/PVS-27s. Twelve troy ounces is one troy pound but only 0.8228571 (advp). He had a few extra things and was there anything we wanted?

“Mk 211?”

“Two cans per ounce of gold.”

“I’m sorry, I think we’ll pass.”

“Three cans?”

“Un-uh.”

“Four, final offer.”

“Deal.”

It comes 120 rounds per can and 480 rounds of ammo that cost the government on the order of \$3,600 was a real bargain. On the other hand we already had about ~4,800 rounds of the stuff. A little less actually, Judy had been practicing with Hornady and Mk 211.

We went to bed every night expecting to be woken by the NWS EAS SAME radio and it didn’t happen. It appeared that the government had employed a news blackout. We followed the ham bands on the TS-2000 and there was nothing there; except speculation running from *the war was over* to *the war hadn’t started yet*.

What they weren’t saying was that was that the US had CVN-68, CVN-70, CVN-73, CVN-74, CVN-76 and CVN-78 Strike Groups in the western Pacific Most had 2 CGs and at least 3 DDGs. DDG-85 had been transferred to Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and repairs were proceeding rapidly. Several Virginia-class attack submarines, *USS Texas* SSN-775, *USS Hawaii* SSN-776 and *USS North Carolina* SSN-777 were with one of various Strike Groups along with the *USS Seawolf* SSN-21, *USS Connecticut* SSN-22 and the *USS Jimmy Carter* SSN-23. About half of the Los Angeles class (688I) were also present including *USS Asheville* SSN-758, *USS Jefferson City* SSN-759, *USS Columbus* SSN-762, *USS Santa Fe* SSN-763, *USS Charlotte* SSN-766, *USS Hampton* SSN-767 and *USS Tucson* SSN-770 leaving only *USS Columbia* SSN-771 and *USS Greenville* (SSN-772) at Pearl Harbor plus a few new Virginia-class that barely were out of sea trials.

A 688I-class carries a mixture of 37 of the following: Mk 48 ADCAP at \$4.5 million each and Harpoon anti-ship missiles at \$2 million each in addition to 12 Tomahawk missiles at \$1.45 million each

Authors Note: The US Department of Defense anticipates a continued need for a sea-based strategic nuclear force. The first of the current Ohio SSBNs are expected to be

retired by 2029, meaning that a platform must already be seaworthy by that time. A replacement may cost over \$4 billion per unit compared to the USS Ohio's \$2 billion. The US Navy is exploring two options. The first is a variant of the Virginia-class nuclear attack submarines. The second is a dedicated SSBN, either with a new hull or based on an overhaul of the current Ohio. Endnote

In many respects the concentration of modern naval assets in the Far East was reminiscent of the concentration naval assets in the Pacific during WW II, minus the Battleships. Others, who knew of the assets harkened back to June of 1944 in preparation for the D-Day landings. With the delay in fielding the Joint strike fighters, only a small number of the CTOL F-35A were involved while more than a few F-22 Raptors had made their way to Okinawa and Kadena AFB.

About the only thing a modern CVN has in common with the *USS Yorktown* CV-5 sunk at the Battle of Midway, is the name, carrier. The super carriers have a length of 1,092' vs. 824' 9", a beam of 252' vs. 109' 6" and a draft of 41' maximum vs. 25' 11.5". Oh, and they're nuclear powered but have to be refueled after about 25 years. The Navy uses the refueling point to upgrade the carriers.

I looked and looked, frustrated at not finding an answer. The apparent news blackout was probably a national security issue. Our government knew what was going on and most likely the Chinese knew. For that matter, Russia probably did too.

Judy and I went over the STS list after Steve had taken a share. With list in hand, we went shopping again. Most of the stores were restocked or in the process of restocking. It took a bit of time and a handful of cash to completely fill the list. Since Arkansas is a major producer of rice, we picked up several bags of Jasmine rice, my favorite, plus large and small white beans for boiling or bean soup. The bean that gets so hard you can't cook it soft is the pinto bean and the bean that never get too hard to cook soft is the black bean.

I was partial to navy bean soup cooked with a ham bone, ham chunks or browned bacon, grated carrot, a touch of onion and so forth. As I pointed out earlier, I had a fondness for chili and omelets. I generally selected cream of wheat or malt-o-meal for cooked cereals and Kellogg's Special K with almonds and vanilla or grape nuts for dry cereal. We were pulling the trailer and loaded it with paper products, mainly bath tissue, paper towels and paper napkins. At least I didn't have to embarrass myself with feminine hygiene products.

The list also had canned meats including tuna, ham, beef and chicken. I added some Spam, regular and turkey. Rather than buying sliced white bread, Judy opted for frozen bread loaves and rolls. I asked in one of stores meat department if we could get case of 1/2 cut Cure 81 hams and 2 cases of Hormel thick sliced bacon. No problem, they'd have it the day after tomorrow.

They had fresh fruit and vegetables allowing us to fill that hole. Judy also picked up 5 20# bags of baking potatoes, explaining that if we wanted boiled potatoes, she'd peel them and boil them, saving and drying the eyes for potato starts. Otherwise they should keep for while in the shelter storeroom. I 'suggested' that the storeroom wasn't cold enough and potatoes were ideally stored at 40°F. She then said that the shelter refrigerator could be warmed to 40°F and they'd store perfectly fine and that 50 pounds of onions would store better in the storeroom. I'd seen a newspaper article than suggested there were foods you should never refrigerate and that included potatoes.

◦

Alcohol
Basil
Bread
Coffee
Garlic
Hot Sauce
Honey
Melons
Onions
Potatoes
Tomatoes
Winter Squashes

◦

When she noticed the 2 30 quart All American Pressure canners, she asked where the jars were stored, forcing me to admit we didn't have any.

"I know where to get them and I'm surprised you didn't get them when you went through Hyrum, Utah."

"I never gave it thought"

"We can get them there along with reusable lids from Tattler in Fruita, Colorado."

"How would we possibly determine the number of jars and lids?"

"The USDA says for a family of four, you will need 1,706 lids per year. The same article mentioned the Tattler lids and I'm somewhat familiar with them. They are a plastic lid with a rubber ring that with care can last several years. Tattler even sells an inexpensive lid opener to help preserve the lids and rings. They also sell the rubber rings in bulk. I think we should get 3,000 lids with 1,000 extra rings plus the opener. A gross of cases of quarts and a half gross of pints (2,592 jars total) will give us a good start and we can easily replace any with chipped rims buying locally.

“Those figures assume you will also be canning meat. Therefore we can easily can stews, chili, meat balls and even loose packed ground beef. Another method of preservation is dehydration and Cabelas carries several dehydrators and the spices. Plus Canning Pantry, the place in Hyrum, sells mixes for pickles and tomato products.”

“Can you order the jars and lids? You can pay for the things with my Amex card.”

“What if they ship the jars, mixes, lids and rings and a full blown war breaks out?”

“That’s the beauty of it Judy, even if we get what we order, we may get a 100% discount.”

“That’s not very nice.”

“Actually they may not even take credit cards because of what is happening in the Far East. In that event, get bank routing numbers and tell them we’ll wire the money today. And while you’re at it, find out if they can ship by hot shot truck. We’re going to need to go into Mountain Home anyway. We need some gardening tools, a rototiller and a good assortment of hybrid seeds. Everything included in the Walton packages is heirloom seeds and they include some I simply don’t like. We also need to get cucumber seeds that produce smaller fruit for sweet pickles and small whole dills. The cucumber seeds included seem to produce a larger fruit, like what one would use for large garlic dills.”

“Do we need garlic too?”

“Couldn’t hurt.”

The Canning Pantry and Tattler both said that in light of current events, both would require a bank wire. Tattler would overnight the order if we were willing to pay the FedEx charges. Canning Pantry said to give them an hour to line up a freight company and they’d call us back with a total. If the freight proved to be more than they quoted, we’d just to pay the driver the excess. Since freight prices are under the control of the Interstate Commerce Commission, I figured they’d be close. [Now a part of the DOT, Surface Transportation Board.]

After Canning Pantry called back, Judy and I headed to my bank in Mountain Home and wired the money to both companies. I learned that a bank wire fee depends upon the amount wired. Next we went looking for a Troy-bilt rototiller, rakes, hoes, etc. I already had round point and square point shovels and a grain scoop that I’d used to shovel coal and the single bit axe that went with my 2 chain saws. Finally we picked up an assortment of hybrid seeds. Hybrids generally produce a large crop, but don’t breed true if you save the seed. However, if stored under the proper conditions, they have a reasonable lifetime before they won’t germinate. One of the local stores also sold dehydrators and we added large one to the pickup. In this area, dehydrating is a challenge because of the relatively high humidity.

Judy explained on the way home that she's added 2 24 quart stock pots to the order to prepare the food for the canning jars as well as a canning kit that included the most of the needed tools, like a jar lifter, etc. The various Mrs. Wages mixes were available at a discount if you bought a minimum number, typically 12.

"Do you have any idea of what we might have any missed Judy"

"Not really. We should have a better idea once we update the STS and LTS food inventories. I think we can accomplish that in 4-5 days. You have more in your cabin pantry than I had in my apartment. May I ask why you have as many provisions as you do?"

"You mean because I like to eat? Again, blame TOM and Jerry for the ideas I was able to incorporate."

"Both are generally well stocked for most common disasters. TOM focuses his acquisitions on the critical items and fills in less significant items he missed after the event. With the plethora of possible events, both accept the idea no one can prepare for everything. As a result, they look for abandoned property to supplement those needs. I've heard the terms looting, salvaging, scavenging and scrounging used.

"Each, using their specific meaning, describes a different activity. Looting is theft from another person who is present and akin to robbery. Salvaging is the opposite and is recovering abandoned property for one's own use. Scavenging basically amounts to going through trash under the concept that one person's trash is another's treasure. That leaves us with scrounging, ergo looking for a handout with nothing being offered in return. I'll buy or trade if the owner is present, but not steal. I'll willingly salvage abandoned property and will keep track of what I took from where. I'm not much interested in the other two but may scavenge, if necessary.

"Since you brought up the jars and lids and other canning equipment, we can eliminate those items from our post-disaster 'shopping list'. We could get by for at least 10 years on one recovered mixed load of diesel and gasoline using the Products Research Inc. fuel stabilizers I have on hand. For certain, we won't need to look ammunition.

"As you saw, immediately after the news of the nukes on DC and Beijing, people rushed to gather food, just in case we really were at war. Steve and I made the rounds, buying the limits at every store and paying cash. Most of that was included in the Short Term Supplies that Steve took with him. About the only things I kept back was 4 12 packs of beer and my brand of cigarettes. There are cigarettes stored in sealed bags with oxygen absorbers in sealed pails in the store room."

"Speaking of storage, where are we going to store the jars and lids?"

“The lids should fit in the storage room. The jars, all 144 boxes of quarts and 72 boxes of pints will just have to go in every nook and cranny we can find. We may have lay plywood on the rafters and create an attic. Other than that, I simply don’t know.”

“The attic idea might work. Can we go to Mountain Home and pick up the plywood? I can help you get it in place and hand you the nails.”

“It beats trying to get it when it’s radioactive outside. Sure, let’s go.”

We bought 44 sheets of ½” plywood and a box of ring shank nails, a hammer and a Skil circular saw, folding attic steps, and we had to bring the trailer to haul the plywood. Over the next day and a half we moved the plywood inside a few sheets at time, took a coffee break, moved those sheets up to the rafters, took a coffee break, moved the sheets into position and I nailed them down. We did it in batches and it took the remainder of that day and all the next day; but, we had the storage, just in time. I hadn’t installed the attic stairs, yet.

The Canning Pantry order showed up about 2 days after the Tattler order. We’d put the lids in the shelter storeroom and hauled the boxes into the cabin, stacking them. When we ran out of stacking space we moved them to the new attic using a rope and improvised ‘cargo net’. Judy stacked them on the net, and then I’d pull the ‘cargo’ to the attic and stack it, beginning at the end and moving towards the center and the attic steps.

Tired from our labors, we went to Mountain Home for a celebration supper. I didn’t mention it although I had a nagging feeling we’d overlooked something. I was distracted during the meal.

“You look like you’re a million miles away.”

“I’ve just got this nagging feeling we’ve overlooked something.”

“Then, let’s go through your preparations. We have air purification with spare filters. We have a very large shelter. We have 3 wells with a combined output of about 60gpm. We have at least 10 or more years’ worth of food. And, we have substantial means of protecting ourselves. Plus, I smoke the same brand of cigarettes you do.”

“That’s it, cigarettes. I have enough of the smokes for one for about 11 years. We need to go to Missouri until we have enough Kool’s for 2 for 10 years.”

“I generally smoke the filter kings and you smoke the super longs, are they the same price?”

“Yep.”

“So you need about 330 cartons at what, \$34 a carton?”

“Close enough for government work.”

“That’s over 11 grand!”

“It’s not the money, I have that. I usually buy about thirty cartons at a time. Let’s go up tomorrow and buy all he’ll sell us and ask him to order the balance of what we need.”

“Two questions. Will ‘he’ do it? Is it legal?”

“Yes and mostly. You save 98¢ per pack in state taxes. That’s \$9.80 per carton or about \$3,325. Stolen cigarettes only get ATF attention if the amount exceeds 7 grand. It’s strictly a state question and the tax difference, total, may or may not get state attention. If we get about 100 cartons at a time, ‘they’ might not catch it. I’ve never had trouble buying 30 cartons at a time.”

“There’s no reason for us to smoke different cigarettes. Let’s just buy the super longs. Maybe we can buy him out and get him to order in the rest of the 330 cartons.”

“First thing in the morning?”

“That should work.”

The following morning, we took state route 5 north into Missouri. Just across the border was a place I always remember because one of the businesses was A & A Loans. We got 90 cartons of super longs and ordered an additional 240.

“You folks must be preppers. A smuggler would buy an assortment of brands. I’m surprised you need more super longs, I figured you had quite a few put by.”

“Oh, I do. But we just got married and smoke the same brand.”

“I’ll have the other 240 cartons in two days if the distributor has them. Otherwise, who knows?”

“It will be okay to substitute filter kings.”

“Oh good. I have 90 cartons those at the moment. Want those too?”

“Sure.”

“And it will be okay if I mix the order for the remaining 150 cartons?”

“Go with the filter kings first and fill in with the super longs.”

“That will be \$6,400 even money including the tax. Biggest sale I’ve ever made. Hot damn.”

On the way back, I got to talking about TOM and Jerry. TOM came to mind because he smoked Kool super longs.

“Those two patriot fiction authors I like to read, TOM and Jerry, provide a bit of an education with a little entertainment thrown in for good measure. TOM has several themes he uses repeatedly in his stories. For example: *Would you rather have it and not need it, or need it and not have it? Improvise. Adapt. Overcome. Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. The opry ain't over until the fat lady sings. Bad things happen in threes. Be careful what you wish for because God has sense of humor and He might give it to you! The grass on the other side of the fence is greener, but it is filled with rocks, broken glass, barbed wire and snakes.*

“Sounds like a character.”

“I think he is. He has a very strange sense of humor. I get the impression that growing in his house wasn't a pleasure. He was sort of a rebel without a cause.”

“Like you were?”

“Not like me. At least I thought I had a cause even though I was wrong.”

“What's your best guess on what's going to happen with this war talk and the action in the Far East?”

“I think the war has started. It hasn't escalated to the point of a Global Thermonuclear War, but could. I can't understand why Beijing and Washington were nuked and Moscow wasn't.”

“Maybe Moscow nuked China and the US in such a way to make both parties think the other did it.”

“You know, you could be right. And if Moscow pushes, they could probably have the other 3 Borei-class subs finished and doing sea trials. That would add 60 missiles carrying a total of 360 150kT warheads to the mix. I really wonder if RP has reequipped the Ohio-class.”

“Well, he said he was going to, temporarily.”

“Yes, I heard him say that, but how long would it take?”

“I figure a month tops, Rollin. There are 14 SSBNs and let's assume 2 days each. I don't know how many or which locations have the Trident II missiles with 8 warheads installed or whether they will have to actually reinstall the warheads.”

“Somehow I think they may be able to do it faster. With some of the SSBNs at sea, they can rearm the ones in port and send them to relieve those at sea. The subs have an endurance of 90 days based on the stores they carry but are equipped to be resupplied quickly and I expect they could even switch between the blue and gold crews. To change the subject, we need to get you some MultiCam in OEF pattern. I think 3 sets should be enough.”

“Some What?”

“MultiCam uniforms from Propper.”

MultiCam was developed by Crye Precision as a universal camouflage adaptable to a wide variety of environments. The reflective nature of the pattern causes it to change apparent color depending on the surrounding environment. Special fabrics and coatings help it blend in under various lighting conditions across both the visible and IR spectrums. The infrared spectrum camouflage makes this pattern effective even when viewed with night vision equipment.

MultiCam Camo vest with light tans and greens, on a white background

MultiCam works by tapping the ability of the human brain to “fill in the gaps” when viewing an image. Very little of the brain is dedicated to processing colors. Instead, the brain picks up cues and uses pattern recognition, which it excels at, to construct that we actually perceive as sight. MultiCam tricks the brain into seeing the pattern as a part of the surrounding environment. The unique pattern absorbs certain wavelengths of light and reflects others, which allows this camouflage to work in a variety of environments at nearly any time of day.

Referred to as OEF Camouflage (Operation Enduring Freedom Camouflage), the MultiCam pattern has been adopted by the US Army and other NATO forces participating in the ongoing military campaign in Afghanistan. Because it was developed for the US military, all MultiCam products are made in the USA. All clothing and uniform components using the MultiCam pattern are fire resistant and use no melt-no drip Cordura fabric.

One of the unusual aspects of MultiCam is the use of a unique, non-repeating pattern. Current ACU, and even MARPAT, patterns have the same hue no matter where you sample the pattern. This leads to an overall blurring of the colors of the pattern into only one recognizable color at long distances.

This “blobbing” effect causes the current ACU uniform to take on an overall blue-ish hue when viewed at long range.

MARPAT patterns fare slightly better, since they blur into natural tans and a dark brown-green color depending on whether the desert or woodland pattern is viewed, but they still present a large single blob.

Because the MultiCam pattern can change so much over a given section of cloth, it tends to further break up the pattern when viewed at long range and virtually eliminates the “blobbing” found with most other patterns.

Crye Precision refers to this aspect of MultiCam as “macroflage.” The macroflage characteristics of MultiCam means some colors may dominate some areas of the pattern and be completely absent in others. The small patterns within MultiCam help the wearer blend in with the immediate environment, while the larger dominating patterns break up the silhouette and eliminate the “blobbing” when viewed at long range.

What’s more, in some areas the colors actually blend into each other, which is distinctly different from the various other digital camouflage designs where each color location is clearly defined.

The MultiCam pattern is currently standard issue for US troops in the Army’s 12th Infantry 2nd Battalion deployed in Afghanistan, where it is referred to as OEF Camouflage (Operation Enduring Freedom Camouflage) and is also in use by a number of private military contractors and Special Forces teams operating in the theater.

Ongoing testing suggests that more military units based in Afghanistan and elsewhere will be incorporating the MultiCam design.

“Now, you have to understand that that write up I just mentioned dates to about 2011. In 2014, the DOD bitched about the price and Crye Precision said, *tough*. Then they tried to buy Crye offering \$25 million and the owner told them to kiss his butt. Its good camo and we wore it in Afghanistan. I think we’ll go to Little Rock tomorrow and back to Missouri the next day. That should have most of the loose ends tied up.

“You’ll need some good boots too. The clothing and boots should get you squared away and if this ‘situation’ does turn into a GTW, we’ll be mostly ready.”

“Mostly?”

“Remember what I said about TOM and his attitude that people seem to overlook something? I can’t for the life of me think of anything we’ve overlooked. But, like the cigarettes, I’m sure there’s probably something.”